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THE TIMES

No. 64,505 WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2 1992 45p



Farmers' fury: effigies of the Gatt agreement negotiators being burnt in Strasbourg yesterday by some of the 50,000 protesters. Report, page 11

**BBC's
finance
director
resigns**

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

IAN Phillips, the BBC's director of finance, has resigned two months after the discovery of a series of accounting errors that led television producers to overspend by at least £20 million this year.

Spending on BBC television programmes for next year has already been cut to compensate for the projected deficit, which is now thought to be more than £50 million. The cuts threaten to jeopardise the quality of next year's autumn schedules.

Last week Marmaduke Hussey, the BBC chairman, promised to make public the result of an investigation into the overspend by the corporation's audit committee, chaired by Lord Joel Barnett, the vice-chairman.

Last night the BBC said Mr Phillips will leave at the end of February. "Ian has now decided that he wishes to pursue a range of other activities and it wishes him well," a notice on the staff board said. It was signed by Sir Michael Checkland, the outgoing director-general.

A BBC spokesman last night denied any connection between the overspend and Mr Phillips's resignation.

BBC Christmas, page 3
Media, page 28

Angry homeowners face rebuff over council tax

By RACHEL KELLY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of householders yesterday confronted the stark reality of how much the value of their homes has fallen when town halls issued valuations for the council tax which comes into force next year.

Homes across the country have been graded into eight bands for the new tax, based on property prices in April last year. But since then, values have fallen by an average of 10 per cent, and the government is braced for a million appeals from people saying their properties have been put in too high a band.

Most complainants are likely to be disappointed to win a reduction, householders will have to prove that their home has been unfairly valued compared with others in the same area. Falling house prices will not be a valid basis for appeal as they affect everyone.

Nevertheless, the collapse in the property market has blighted the launch of a tax that the government had hoped would end the discrepancy caused by the community charge—and its cause was not helped by the confusion that surrounded the publication of valuation lists yesterday. Councils had been told that they would receive the details

■ The full extent of the collapse of the property market was revealed yesterday when details of the council tax were released. Most appeals from householders seem certain to fail

on December 1, but they did not know until today that they would be expected to put them on display immediately. Many were unable to do so and had to turn disgruntled householders away.

John Blundell, under-secretary for finance for the Conservative-controlled Association of District Councils, said: "This is the last thing we want to start out with a problem on this new tax. It will turn members of public against the tax if it is perceived that it is not being handled properly."

In the Commons, Margaret Beckett, the Labour deputy leader, predicted that the "chaos and injustice of the poll tax would be surpassed by the chaos and injustice of the council tax", and Doug Henderson, shadow local government minister, promised to expose its "blatant unfairness". He said: "Many householders will be shocked at the valuations given to their properties, knowing that a higher valuation will mean a larger tax bill." Lower and middle

income householders in the South would be hit the hardest, he said. "These householders will find it difficult to understand how their house is valued at perhaps two bands higher than a similar house in other parts of the country."

Mr Henderson added that the unfairness of the system was shown when rich single people could receive up to £182 in transitional relief, on top of the 25 per cent single person discount, while a married couple with a small occupational pension could get no discount and could be paying nearly as much.

But despite the stance being taken by Labour MPs, Labour councillors have urged them to soft-pedal their opposition as they do not want the tax to fail and face another upheaval in local government finance. With the Exchequer now providing about 85 per cent of councils' income, they fear the next step would be the abolition of a local tax.

Michael Howard, the environment secretary, conceded

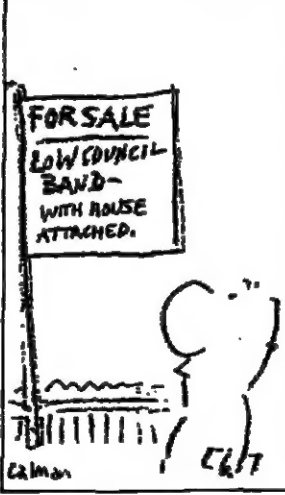
people thinking of selling their homes might appeal that they were in too low a band.

Those who decide they do want to appeal will not be able to do so until next April, when the first council tax bills are sent out. Their cases could take months or more to be dealt with and they will have to pay the tax while it is being heard.

Householders will not know what they have to pay until councils set their budgets in the spring, but the Association of London Authorities yesterday released its prediction of what the basic tax for every council in the country would be (see page 4). The association said the figures had been prepared by making "conservative" assumptions about council budgets for 1993.

In setting their budgets, councils are grappling with expected cuts in jobs and services to keep within government spending limits. Humberside county council yesterday called for voluntary redundancies and a freeze on recruitment; Lancashire said it expected to shed at least 2,000 jobs and make £67 million cuts in services. Derbyshire said it would have to make "devastating" cuts in services with the loss of up to 2,500 jobs and Berkshire expected major budget problems.

Streets apart, page 4



War files show how Alderney was left alone against Nazis

By RAY CLANCY

CHANNEL Island officials who organised the evacuation of civilians during the second world war were guilty of "criminal neglect" when they failed to help those living on Alderney, according to a report released yesterday.

Judge Fred French of Alderney, who eventually asked the Admiralty to send ships to evacuate the 1,100 islanders, said in a detailed report to the Home Office on June 24, 1940, that the Guernsey authorities had ignored their plight and failed to reply to his letters.

The report is part of a dossier of files released early by the government after considerable lobbying. Many documents were scheduled to remain secret for another 50 years. Recent campaigns in the media and appeals from David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsell North, led to Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, agreeing to release many of the documents from the Home Office and defence ministry.

They include letters written by members of the public, allegations of collaboration with the Nazis, and requests for a German commander to be given a job after the war because he helped to prevent deaths. It is widely known that the Germans withheld food from some inhabitants, notably those born in England, and reports have suggested that 350 prisoners died from starvation on Alderney.

But the files are full of blanked-out names, supposedly "on the grounds of personal sensitivity" because they contain "uncorroborated allegations" that "may

distress or endanger that person or descendants".

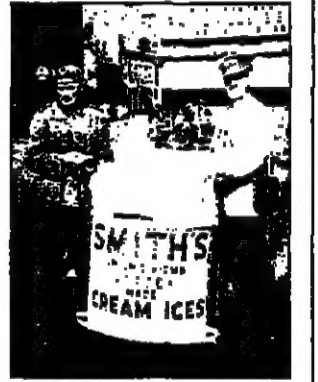
In a report dated July 9, 1945, the then director of public prosecutions, Theobald Mathews even suggests that the people of Guernsey were peasants who never really considered committing treason. He rejected 12 cases brought before him on the grounds that there was insufficient evidence to prosecute.

French's report is, however, the most damning piece of new material. In a detailed diary of events from June 12 to 24, 1940, he

described the growing panic on the island and the disillusionment when news of the evacuation of neighbouring islands reached Alderney from the crew of a boat sent by the British government to evacuate the families of military personnel only. He concluded: "The Guernsey civil authorities have been guilty throughout of a gross failure to perform their duty."

Flashback: a German soldier on Jersey

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UK to call Bosnia summit

By MICHAEL BINYON
AND MICHAEL EVANS

WITH the Foreign Office taking a markedly more hawkish stance than the Ministry of Defence, Britain is to call a second international conference on Bosnia-Herzegovina to review Western military options to halt Serbian aggression.

The conference will be held in Geneva soon after the Edinburgh European Community summit meeting next week, and will bring together countries in the steering group of the Geneva peace negotiations. Muslim countries, now meeting on Bosnia in Jeddah, will be represented, but warring factions in the former Yugoslavia will be excluded.

Senior officials in the Foreign Office are leaning towards the possibility of military action against the Serbs, including attacks on Serbian-held airfields to enforce the no-fly zone over Bosnia, and possible deployment of ground troops in Kosovo to prevent a general uprising there.

This is in sharp contrast to more cautious views at the Ministry of Defence. Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, yesterday warned against any international attempt to impose a military solution in Bosnia. He also rejected the idea of UN troops delivering humanitarian aid by force.

Rifkind: opposed to military solution

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Border closed, page 13



Yeltsin warns deputies of civil war backlash

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin of Russia yesterday accused his country's senior legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies, of hindering economic reform. He called on it to surrender powers to the government or face the consequences of a headline backlash, claiming that ex-communists were forming armed groups and trying to drive the country towards civil war.

In his keynote address to the twice-yearly "super-parliament" meeting in the Kremlin, Mr Yeltsin gave a warning of growing extremism in the country and called for a truce with his opponents to ward off the threat of violent confrontation. "Political adventures believe that an ungovernable Russia would be easy prey for them," he said.

He spoke of the need for a united reform front uniting parliament and government, who have been at loggerheads over the pace and course of change to protect the country from "political hysteria whipped up by anti-reformists". Only strong democratic institutions could combat the "self-styled fronts and underground governments which have begun to appear in the old Bolshevik soil", he said.

Nationalists and communists have joined forces at the Congress, vowing to topple the government and block its reforms, and the mood among deputies is tense and heated.

In return for support, Mr Yeltsin made concessions to the military-industrial lobby, saying he would accept some state intervention in reform and seek a "golden path" between state and market.

Analysis, page 13

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BRITAIN'S quietest language got its first dictionary yesterday. British Sign Language (BSL) is the fourth most commonly used of Britain's indigenous languages, after English, Welsh, and Scottish Gaelic. More than 50,000 people use it as their first language.

The Princess of Wales, patron of the British Deaf Association, launched the dictionary translating sign language into English and vice versa in London yesterday.

Those who have never paid attention to BSL and expect it to consist of simple signs that mirror the world are in for a surprise. Some of the signs are recognisable by non-signers. For

British sign dictionary launched

example, "delicious" in BSL is signed by smiling and rotating the open right hand clockwise in a small circle over the stomach. But most of the signs have moved on from hieroglyphic picturing of the world. BSL is a system of conventional movements of every part of the body to express the full range of meanings conveyed by speech. A sonnet by Shakespeare can be expressed precisely. For example, the dictionary illustrates and

defines 30 different things that can be done with the face to give different meanings or glosses to meanings, from raising the eyebrows to sticking out the tongue.

The shape, orientation, location, arrangement, contact and movement of each hand are used to convey meanings. For example, to say "abbreviate" and its nest of connotations and related words, both hands are clenched in what is termed the A position, with the thumb held

against the side of the index finger. These fists are held in front of the body, with the palms facing down. If the hands were opened, the fingers would all point away from the signer. The hands are held in front of the body, and make a short, firm movement down and towards each other.

This first manual of Britain's forgotten language is no pocket dictionary, but a thumping big book with more than 1,000 pages and 1,800 signed and illustrated headwords for groups of words.

Michael Shea, page 16

Filibusters make it a day to remember

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

To you or me or any other rational observer, there was nothing unusual about 3.40pm on Tuesday afternoon in the Commons chamber. MPs were on their feet arguing, as usual. Their arguments were, as usual, of no conceivable interest to anybody whose brain had not been partially destroyed by long immersion in politics. As usual the Chair was struggling to move the business forward. As usual, interminable bores from the constituencies were struggling to bog it down. A day, you say, like any other?

You would be wrong. In times to come and generations hence, while-haired MPs, wizened by age, will dandle their little grandchildren on their knee, and, on hearing yet again the question the kiddies love to ask — "what did you do in the great Maastricht filibuster, grandpappy?" — reach for that yellowing volume of Hansard, and turn the pages — ah! How well-thumbed! — to December 1, 1992...

"See here, my child. There's grandpa's name. That day was the very beginning of a debate which, as everybody knows, went on for years. And I was on my feet, raising a point of order with Mr Morris in the Chair."

"It was a chilly winter's day. Nigel Spearing had just rambled through a long point of order about something or other; and I stood up, and..."

Mr Spearing will by then be long gone, but yesterday the redoubtable member for Newham S was in indefatigable form. Commons addicts will recognise Spearing as the lanky, lugubrious figure who knows everything there is to know about the British constitution, railway timetables, Statutory Instruments and cycle lanes.

With his London accent and grave bonhomie, his encyclopaedic knowledge and his readiness to impart it all to anyone who will listen, Spearing reminds us of the sort of taxi-driver who wins Mastermind competitions. Where others split hairs, Spearing would dissect them and then perform an autopsy, a burial and a funeral oration.

Even his speeches wear cycle clips. A fragment... "Unless we're able to do so, Mr Morris, then the process of ratification which our constitution requires

...suffices. And so on, and on.

Mr Spearing, along with a couple of dozen MPs on both sides of the House, does not like the Maastricht treaty and is determined to obstruct its passage through the committee. MPs were filibustering.

The House, mind you, hadn't begun consideration of the bill itself. This was part of a "point of order" to the chairman, preliminary to beginning work on the bill. The main filibuster was still to come. This was an 83-minute filibuster to a filibuster, a pre-filibuster. Twenty other MPs yoyed up and down, anxious to speak, ready with filibusterettes of their own.

Without experiencing it for yourself it is difficult to capture the glee with which a backbencher throws himself into filibustering. There is an insubordinate, childish delight (understood by every captive spirit) in being obstructive while still obeying the rules. Doing everything very slowly, saying "amen" in a silly voice, leaving your carrots because Mums said "eat your greens" ... we all remember the pleasure to be derived from observance of the law in the letter only.

For MPs, that pleasure is still available through the device of filibustering. Seldomly they assure the chairman of their obedience. "Mr Morris, as we struggle to understand the meaning of this treaty, the very raising of half an eyebrow by you will cause the government to jitter with fear..." — that was Nick Budge, speaking yesterday, as his pals tittered behind their hands.

It was a day for schoolboy giggles. Earlier, House Leader Tony Newton had addressed his backbencher colleague, Michael Fabricant (C, Mid-Staffs) as "the hon lady". It ruined Mr Fabricant's beautifully crafted and carefully sweet-tongued question about a 3 per cent increase in the money supply, M0.

"I'm sorry," snarled Newton, "but the MP in my line of sight at the time was an hon lady." This was true (Labour's Joan Walley sits opposite Newton; Fabricant was behind him) but raises worries as to how Mr Newton might address MPs if, say, a domestic pet, a still-life in oils, or a game trophy mounted on the wall, catches his eye.

"I agree with the hon Cat/Banana/Moose's head..."

Gummer vows to quit the church over vote for women priests

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Gummer, the agriculture minister, has resigned from the General Synod of the Church of England and says that he will eventually leave the church altogether. He blamed the dwindling authority of the church and the vote to ordain women to the priesthood for his decision.

Last night, he said that the church had changed its nature and had become a sect. The vote on women priests had been the "straw that broke the camel's back".

His resignation was greeted with sadness by church leaders and synod members, who said they regretted losing a man of his expertise and authority. In a letter today, he says that by voting to ordain women priests the church had excluded all who hold the historic faith. "It is not we who have left the Church of England," he says. "It is the Church of England which has left the faith into which generations have been baptised."

Mr Gummer has been a General Synod member for the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich diocese since 1979. He has attended meetings of the synod and its traditionalist Catholic group, despite his heavy government commitments. A church spokesman said he was the first member known to have resigned.

In his letter, to the deanery synod members, who are the general synod electors, Mr Gummer says also that ortho-

doxy has been under perpetual siege. He condemns the "almost complete abandonment of the Prayer Book", saying the church has lost its bedrock of faith and order. He criticises bishops who denied the virgin birth and cast doubt upon the reality of the resurrection. He says the country has become the "divorce and abortion capital of Europe".

In an interview with *The Times* last night, he said: "The Church of England has left the faith as taught by the fathers and by the saints." He had no definite plans about where or when he might go. "I feel myself in limbo in that sense." He will consult family and friends before any decision.

The church would now decline both in numbers and influence, he said. It no longer had any claim on the people of England as the apostolic church — in this country, "I always said I could not remain an Anglican if the Church of England decided that it would cut its links with the historic faith. And that remains true."

Mr Gummer said he would remain on the parliamentary Ecclesiastical Committee, which vets church legislation before it comes before Parliament. He is concerned to protect the rights of clergy who believe they must leave the church because of the narrow vote last month to ordain women priests.

He said the issue was not about women's ordination,

but about the authority of the church. He accused the synod of betraying the nature of the church. He had resigned because he "could not in honour be a member of a body which has arrogated to itself powers it could not possibly have. It has decided it has the power to change the orders without scriptural authority and without the authority of the [church] fathers and the saints. That is not a body I could possibly belong to."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, who has asked church members not to make hasty decisions about their future, declined to comment yesterday. Mr Gummer said his decision was far from hasty. "Some people have been asking me why I didn't do it at once."

The Ven George Austin, Archdeacon of York, said: "It is not a surprise. It is just very sad that we have lost a fine Anglican."

Fr Peter Geldard, chairman of the 180-strong Catholic group, said: "The Church of England will definitely be poorer without him. He symbolises what many ordinary lay people feel and I am sure others will follow suit."

Simon Hughes MP, the Liberal Democrat spokesman on church affairs and a member of the Ecclesiastical Committee, said: "His decision is premature. It is sad and I think it is a bad example. He should accept the democratic view of the church."

Diary, page 16



No art for Aids day: the Fine Art Society's gallery in New Bond Street, London, replaces paintings in its window with a display of red ribbons to mark World Aids day yesterday. A "day without art" was conceived in 1988, when a small group of galleries in New York displayed empty windows to mark the devastation Aids had wreaked in the city's artistic community.

This year nearly 5,000 artists, art organisations and galleries in Britain, the United States, Canada, Mexico and Japan have pledged their support for World Aids day. Red ribbons, which originated in America as a symbol of Aids awareness and concern, were first used in Britain to mark deaths from Aids at the Freddie Mercury memorial concert earlier this year.

Tories operate like a 'social service'

BY MICHAEL DOBBS

THE law may be an ass. For politicians, it has certainly become a pain, as Norman Lamont will willingly testify.

The £23,000 reportedly paid in legal fees on behalf of Lamont to evict an embarrassing tenant was chicken feed compared to a libel action. Costs in such cases often run to six figures. How can politicians afford to defend themselves?

The answer has frequently been found among party colleagues. The Conservative party, for all its public backbiting over policy and ideology, in private has a well-established system of mutual aid for embattled colleagues — not just the Cabinet minister under pressure, but occasionally party employees, even widows and families. Some-



Ian Richardson: devious in House of Cards

times this help is provided directly by parliamentary colleagues, sometimes by party headquarters with a loan, for instance, underwriting a bank overdraft or paying a debt. The help is often provided by outside sources, supporters of

the party with a sympathetic ear. In the case of Margaret Tebbit, who was injured in the Brighton Bomb, a trust fund was set up by friends.

Even the Whips Office takes part, setting aside its thumbscrew image to co-ordinate assistance and to help MPs through marital, medical and financial challenges. "It's a parliamentary social service built along military lines," one MP said. "Of course, they'll use bayonets to encourage you over the top, but they are also tireless in dragging the wounded back to safety."

The system is of long standing. Disraeli and Churchill were bailed out of debt, but today the system is neither open-ended nor mindless. "Paying up for Mumsy," as Mark Thatcher naively put it, is no longer an option, particularly with a party which is

reportedly £17 million in debt. Individual cases are rarely met from ordinary party funds. Lamont's case sounds typical, with one or more individual party sympathisers being approached for new money. Lamont neither knowing their identities nor receiving money directly.

Yet at a time when the Conservative party must become more cautious about aid, the demands on its resources, especially for supporting legal action, are expanding. Perhaps there used to be a clear distinction between a politician's public and private roles. Today that distinction has crumbled. Politics is increasingly about personality — witness Neil Kinnock during the last election and David Mellor since — and the personal reputation of a politician is likely to be as decisive as his policies. So the need to protect those reputations grows.

Inevitably the system must operate mainly out of public view. The self-acknowledged lies told by two employees of an off-licence about Norman Lamont are far from unique. While I was Conservative Chief of Staff much of my task was to keep material out of the press. Allegations flooded across my desk that half the Cabinet were having affairs, even that two of the were having an affair with each other; that a minister had a criminal record; that another was an alcoholic. Silencing such lies frequently requires legal action. For justice to be done also requires silence. It is the unseemly game that politics has become.

Michael Dobbs was chief of staff at Conservative Central Office and wrote House of Cards, the political television series.

Simon Jenkins, and Diary, page 16 Letters, page 17

Brown twists knife in Lamont

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GORDON Brown, shadow chancellor, last night called on the prime minister to draw up new ministerial guidelines on the use of public funds in the light of the use of taxpayers' money by Norman Lamont.

Mr Brown has also asked the National Audit Office to investigate whether other undisclosed payments have been made under the current government, in addition to its study into the £4,700 paid to help the Chancellor meet legal fees relating to the eviction of a sex therapist renting part of his home.

On Monday the National Audit Office said that the account in which the £4,700 appeared had been reported to

Parliament under a broad heading of "Treasury running costs". It was never examined, however, because it was not identified as a special payment to the Treasury.

In a statement issued yesterday, Mr Brown said the Chancellor should accept that he should have consulted the Law Officers — the attorney-general and Solicitor General — before any action was taken through his own solicitors.

In a letter to the Chancellor, Mr Brown asks him to outline the sequence of events from April 1991 that led to the minute from Sir Peter Middleton, former permanent secretary at the Treasury, suggesting that the Treasury

would pick up the legal bill. He also charges Mr Lamont with failing to follow existing ministerial guidelines by not consulting the Law Officers before taking up the matter with his own solicitors.

"In these circumstances I would be grateful for a note of the advice given by the law officers," said Mr Brown. "I hope you will agree with me that the prime minister should now consult Parliament over the new guidelines that are urgently needed to govern the conduct of ministers in relation to matters such as these."

Professor resigns in forces pay row

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR member of the independent Armed Forces Pay Review Body, which recommends wage increases for the three services, has resigned in protest at the government's decision to peg public sector rises to 1.5 per cent next year.

John White, 68, one of eight members, sent his letter of resignation to John Major yesterday. He told the prime minister that the independence of the review body had been undermined and the armed forces, who depended on the review body to give objective advice, would feel let down.

His resignation after six years as a member of the body came after he learnt from fellow members that they had agreed with the government's request not to advise on the basic military salary in their next annual pay report.

Professor White, Pro Professor for External Affairs at

University College London, was in Tokyo when the pay curb was announced in the government's Autumn Statement. He was not consulted by telephone when the review body was asked to accept the government's decision.

He said that since the review body was set up in 1971 the government had never rejected its recommendations on pay, although on three occasions the increase was phased. This was the first time the review body had been bypassed, he said.

Although the members, headed by Sir Peter Cazalet, are expected to continue studying certain aspects of pay affecting particular ranks, the work they have already carried out to prepare an overall pay recommendation will be ignored by the government. The review body's full report would have been published in the spring.

Bosnia summit call

Continued from page 1

shot down near Sarajevo, killing four on board. The flight suspension was announced as parts of Sarajevo came under heavy shelling. The Bosnian Muslim army accused Serb gunners of attacking the runway to disrupt aid deliveries.

In Paris, Mr Rifkind said full military intervention would require more than 100,000 men, who would suffer heavy casualties. "It is of utmost importance that our troops are impartial, that they avoid the appearance of taking sides and they do not undertake any tasks which could lead to their being sucked into the conflict," Brit-

ain has 2,400 troops in Bosnia and Croatia, many of whom are based in Bosnia.

Nato sources yesterday said there were plans to tighten the naval blockade of the rump Yugoslav state in the Adriatic by deploying warships in Albanian territorial waters for the first time. They said a decision was expected later this week. Nato officials are being sent to Tirana to make final arrangements.

Saudi Arabia yesterday called on the UN to invoke its charter, as it did against Iraq over the invasion of Kuwait, to take action against the Serbs.

Border closed, page 13

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West Country faces further disruption as floods spread

By Robin Young and Adam Fresco

FRESH flood alerts were issued yesterday while villagers in the West Country were still cleaning up after three days of rain led to floods and road and rail closures.

Another inch of rain and high winds were predicted for today in the area as police and the AA warned drivers to limit themselves to essential journeys. Four inches of rain in the last four days made November the wettest on record in the South West since 1940.

Yesterday, a spokesman for the National Rivers Authority in Wales said 4in of rain had fallen on Sunday night, and a further inch on Monday, causing damage estimated at £1 million.

She added: "The ground is so saturated at the moment that any rain which falls won't be taken in. It just runs off and the flooding could be quite bad again if the forecast prolonged rain comes."

Another flood alert remained in force on the river Wy between Hereford and Ross throughout the day yesterday and farmers were advised to take livestock to high ground for the night as the river was in danger of bursting its banks. Motorists were stranded on flooded roads, and a canoeist had to be rescued after being swept to-

ward a weir on the river Frome at Frampton Cotterell, Avon, near Bristol. The man, in his mid-20s, clung to an overhanging tree until firemen and a passerby managed to drag him to the bank after cutting his trapped legs free from the canoe.

One man in Chippenham, Wiltshire, alerted police by waving from the roof of his car when he was marooned in floods. In Taunton, Somerset, 200 sheep were swept to their deaths when the river Tone burst its banks after rising eight feet overnight. Firemen waded through water up to their waists to rescue 50 others. In nearby Wellington, a wave swept through a garden centre, causing thousands of pounds of damage.

Train journeys between Paddington and Wales and the West Country were extended by 20 minutes because the Chipping Sodbury tunnel was flooded. Buses ferried rail passengers between Taunton and Exeter, where the line was submerged. Other branch lines, including Barnstaple to Exeter in Devon and Liskeard to Looe in Cornwall, were closed by floods.

Motorists on many minor roads were delayed by landslips. Police closed the B3193 at Christow in the Teign



Wet country: flood waters yesterday around Langport after the river Parrett burst its banks, submerging the Somerset Levels

valley, Devon, after heavy rain caused subsidence. Annabelle Lillycrop, spokeswoman for the rivers authority's Wessex Region, which covers much of the West Country, said: "We're working round the clock monitoring water levels. Things have eased up a bit and we've had some respite but we're

expecting more rain which may give rise to further problems."

The Bristol Rovers training ground at Keynsham was under 2ft of water. Hundreds of acres of farmland remained under a foot of water in the Lacock area of Wiltshire. In Staverton, a car was swept

away. Villagers in Walton-in-Gordano, near Clevedon, Avon, had 2ft of water in their houses, while pensioners in Lydney, Gloucestershire, were evacuated when 18in of water flooded their homes. Ambulancemen were called to near-by Dursley to rescue a man and his horse stranded in

floods. The seafront in Sidmouth, Devon, was closed. A spokesman for the Bristol weather centre said that the area was probably the wettest in Britain on Monday when 1½ in of rain fell. The spokesman forecast heavy overnight rain and 60mph winds.

A flood alert was in force on a 90-mile stretch of the Thames last night after heavy rain caused the river to burst its banks. Rivers authority officials are patrolling the river from its source in Gloucestershire to Teddington, advising the public on safety measures.

Forecast, page 20

Schoolboy cleared of killing pensioner

By Lin Jenkins

A BOY aged 11 hugged his grandmother in the well of number one court at the Old Bailey yesterday after a judge directed a jury to clear him of killing a 93-year-old woman.

Martin Heslop, for the prosecution, said he would offer no evidence because no jury could be certain that the child had been responsible for the death. The judge, Mr. Justice Mantell, directed the jury to formally return a verdict of not guilty.

The boy had denied killing Rosetta Forth, who was partially blind. The prosecution was to have said that he punched her during an argument in June this year when he went to retrieve his football from her garden. She died five days later from a pulmonary embolism — a blood clot that developed in her leg and broke free, blocking vital arteries — initially thought to have resulted from the alleged punch.

Mr Heslop said he had received a further statement from Dr Peter Vaneza, the pathologist for the defence, which said there was a small possibility that the embolism could have occurred spontaneously. He told the jury that Dr Rufus Crompton, the pathologist for the Crown, had been unable to disagree.

Mr Justice Mantell imposed an order under the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 banning the publication of any material likely to lead to the boy's identification.

Black PC accuses officers of racism

By Christopher Elliott

THIRTEEN policemen, ranging in rank from constables to superintendent, are being investigated following allegations of racial discrimination and harassment by an Afro-Caribbean officer.

Scotland Yard confirmed last night that the officer made his allegations at Fulham police station in west London. A chief superintendent has been brought in to head the investigation.

The enquiry is one of the biggest of its kind ever carried out by the Metropolitan police. The uniformed constable claimed he suffered "direct and indirect racial discrimination" as well as harassment.

None of the officers has been suspended and the black officer, who has spent two years in the Metropolitan police after serving with an overseas force, has opted to stay on duty at Fulham.

It is understood that the officer, who is believed to be in his twenties, made a formal statement outlining the allegations in October. His complaints cover a long period and he first reported a problem in the summer.

Eventually, the report will be considered by Alan Fry, the deputy assistant commissioner in charge of west London. He will decide whether there have been breaches of civil or criminal law or whether the matter may be dealt with

under the police discipline code. The matter is not being supervised by the Police Complaints Authority.

Some of the officers have already approached the Police Federation, which represents ranks up to the level of inspector, for help should the case go to a tribunal. The black officer is seeking advice from the Commission for Racial Equality.

Chris Myant, a commission spokesman, said yesterday: "He has come to us and we are giving him what is termed advice and assistance. Our complaints officer is talking to him but we are experiencing some difficulty in getting information that we need from the police." The commission has not yet decided whether it will provide legal assistance.

The most celebrated case of internal discrimination within a police force was settled two years ago when three Asian policemen serving in Nottinghamshire won a total of £30,000 at an industrial tribunal. The case had been taken up by the commission.

The tribunal found that PC Surinder Singh had been subjected to racial discrimination when he took part in a scheme to test his suitability for the CID, which led to his rejection. Two sergeants also faced opposition to applications to join the CID and were awarded compensation.

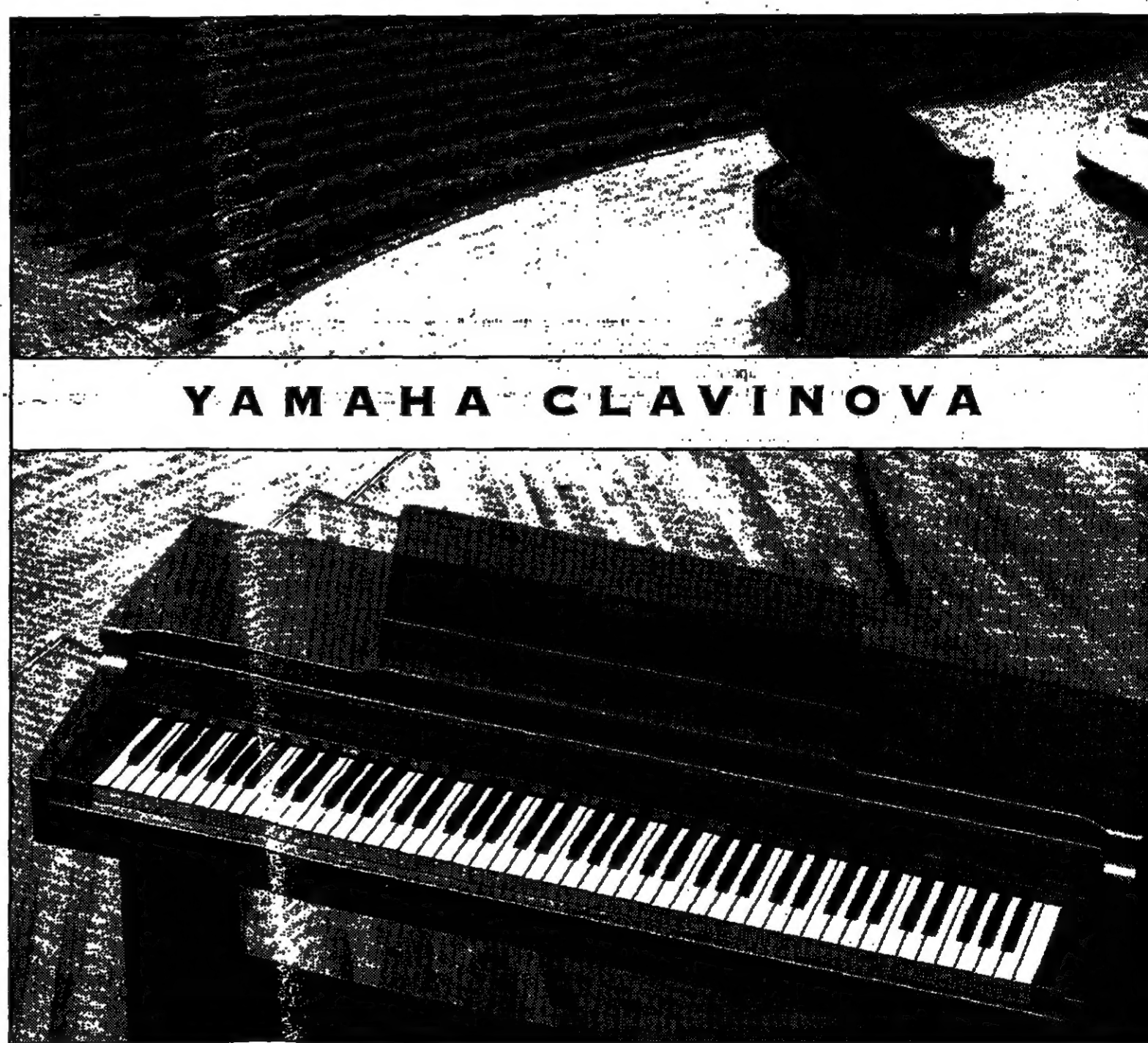
Disabled lose out on jobs

DISABLED people are failing to get jobs with government departments despite a requirement that employers recruit more staff from among those with disabilities (writes Jeremy Laurence).

Latest figures show that the proportion of Whitehall staff who are disabled is well below the 3 per cent quota set by law and is decreasing in many government departments. At the Department of Transport the number fell from 166 in June 1989, 1.2 per cent of the total workforce, to 153 in June 1990.

The government is exempt from the act but its failure to abide by its own strictures demonstrates the need for tougher legislation to outlaw discrimination, according to Alf Morris, Labour spokesman on the disabled.

He is to present the figures in London today at a conference called Beyond the Decade, organised by the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation and other disability organisations to consider the future for disabled people. Sixty per cent of disabled workers are now unemployed. "The government should be giving a lead," said Mr Morris.



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Operatic vampire joins the BBC's Christmas schedule

By Melinda Wittstock, Media Correspondent

"DISTINCTIVE" soap opera will be the hallmark of the BBC's £27 million Christmas schedules, including an adaptation of *The Vampire*, a 19th-century romantic opera about an evil but erotic vampire released from his ice-tomb after hundreds of years.

In a potent antidote to the usual festive fare of *Neighbours* and *EastEnders*, the singing vampire rises to the pinnacle of 1990s high finance and then becomes a serial killer. The five-part BBC2 production of the opera, written by German composer Heinrich Marschner, combines the horror of *Dracula* with the soap suds of *Dynasty*. The dialogue is sung, not spoken, by Omar Ebrahim, Richard Van Allan and Fiona O'Neill with a soundtrack pre-recorded by the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra.

BBC2 will also show *Life With Eliza*, an Edwardian teatime soap featuring John Sessions with a series of 10-minute comic monologues. The BBC, traditional winner in the yuletide ratings battle with ITV, has produced more than 150 hours of original entertainment and drama as well as special Christmas editions of its most

popular shows, from *Only Fools and Horses* to *Casualty*.

Twenty-four blockbuster films, including *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, *Shirley Valentine* and *When Harry Met Sally*, will receive their television premiere over the holidays on BBC1 and BBC2.

Film buffs will also get a season of Hitchcock thrillers and Astaire and Rogers musicals plus three films starring Michelle Pfeiffer. Ruby Wax joins *The Comic Strip* to hunt down a defiant *Wild Turkey* for Christmas, while Lenny Henry explores fantasy and nightmares in *Dreams*. Victoria Wood, Harry Enfield, Jasper Carrott and the compulsively uncouth Rab C. Nesbitt will provide comedy specials, while Clive James will host another irreverent look at the past year.

Terry Wogan, top of the ratings last year with clips from the cutting-room floor, reveals other comic dangers in *More Auntie's Blooms*. BBC2 will devote an entire evening to Granada Television, ITV's oldest company, on the eve of the biggest shake-up ever seen in commercial television when licences change hands on January 1. Musical output will be

spearheaded by a live concert from Vienna featuring Plácido Domingo and Jose Carreras with Diana Ross. Opera highlights include *La Cenerentola*, Rossini's version of the Cinderella fairytale, and Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Mikado*. Ballet highlights include the late Kenneth MacMillan's *Winter Dreams* and *The Hard Nut*, an unconventional version of *The Nutcracker*.

Special seasonal programmes include *In The Beginning*, an animated alternative version of the creation with the voices of John Cleese and Michael Hordern. In *This Is The Day*, Roy Castle celebrates the festive season he thought he might not live to see.

The Queen's Christmas message will be broadcast on both channels. BBC1's *Bernard and the Genie*, the story of a hip genie transposed from 30 BC to modern Britain, was yesterday named best TV comedy in the *Radio Times* Comedy and Drama Awards. It starred Lenny Henry and was a ratings hit last Christmas.

Sue Johnston, best known as Sheila Grant in *Brookside*, won BBC2 an award for best TV drama with *Goodbye Cruel World*.

Release of war files reveals how Alderney was left abandoned

BY MARCUS BINNEY

THE publication of secret documents about the occupation of the Channel Islands has re-ignited debate about the islanders' traumatic years under the Nazis. Yesterday they were still defending their reputation against charges of collaboration.

On Jersey, they were quick to point out that many of them fought in the British forces against the Germans, and that the whole island's militia left shortly before the invasion and enrolled as the 11th Battalion of the Royal Hampshire Regiment.

Other Channel islanders managed to escape, including Jersey's present bailiff, Sir Peter Crill, who rowed to France in a 12ft dinghy under the noses of the Germans in November 1944.

Nevertheless, there were

those who profited from black-market trading and those women, dubbed "Jerrybags", who had affairs with German soldiers. Many of them were tarred and feathered immediately after the war. Some left others remained only to find themselves pictured in snapshots obtained by people collecting relics of the occupation from German soldiers.

Many opportunities, however, were taken to hinder the German war effort. Nigel Gee, the Guernsey historian, said: "When it was known that tomatoes were destined for Germany, they were squashed so they would be rotten on arrival."

In Sark, Germans sometimes outnumbered local people. Following British commando raids on the island, a substantial number of

people were interned in Germany, including not only British-born citizens, but local families, one of which had ten children.

In Jersey, Mrs John Appleby (née Du Feu) recalled: "People never locked their doors and German soldiers always walked in without knocking. Early on in the occupation an officer came in demanding a chicken. My mother said we had none, so he marched her out into the farmyard and seized a cockerel by the neck. She was so incensed she shook him till he dropped it. Afterwards whenever he went past he saluted. In France he would have been shot for that kind of reaction."

Immediately after the invasion of Normandy, the family had a map of France on the kitchen wall and used to put pins in to show the latest allied successes reported on the radio. "As the news the Germans heard was quite different, they never spotted what was happening," said Mrs Appleby.

Soon after the German landing in Jersey, a group of farmers approached the commandant to ask if they could continue to hold a weekly ARP (air raid precaution) practice in the parish hall — he agreed, not knowing that it was a forum for collecting the latest information on German mines and defences.

One fear of the islanders was that they would be sent to do forced labour in Germany. Much of Jersey's surplus labour was employed on building North Marine Drive, a completely useless stretch of road. "Make sure it's never finished," were their instructions.

The Germans were keen to exploit the propaganda value of occupied British soil. The conductor of a German military band once astounded locals by asking all those who wished him to play God Save the King to raise their right hands. Photographs appeared shortly after in the Berlin papers captioned: "British citizens give Nazi salute".

Documents released, page 1
Neo-Nazi, page 11
Daniel Johnson, page 16

Sister fought to clear collaborator's name

PERSONAL letters are among the most poignant documents in the files (Ray Clancy writes). One woman wrote directly to King George VI pleading for her brother's name to be cleared.

Felicity Giles, then of Sandhurst, Kent, believed that her brother, James Gilbert, had been wrongly accused of assisting the enemy. He was a conscientious objector who moved to Jersey to find agricultural work. According to the official records, he volunteered to help the Germans and went to Germany where he broadcast propaganda urging the British people to give up the war in the interests of peace.

But in her letter, Mrs Giles insists that her brother was forced to go to Germany and made to work for the radio station by being beaten up and told he would be sent to a concentration camp if he did not comply.

"Your Majesty, we are in very great trouble," she began her letter, on bright-blue paper, dated July 16, 1946. "Forgive me for taking so

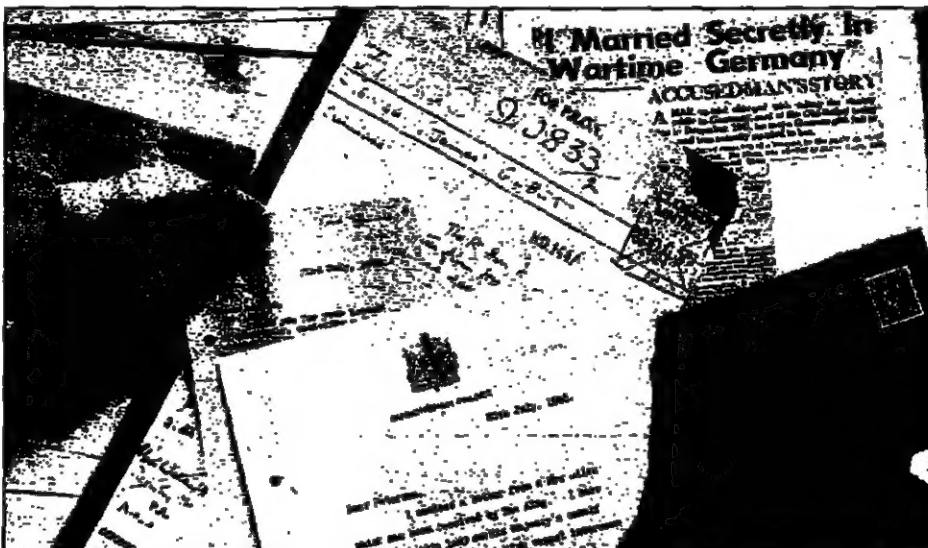
much of your time. I would not but for the danger of a great miscarriage of justice," the letter ended.

But officials' handwritten notes on the file cast doubt on the family version. "It is evident that she is not aware of the fact that her brother voluntarily offered his services to the enemy and in fact went out of his way to do so," says one. Gilbert was eventually sentenced to nine months in jail by the Old Bailey in September 1946.

Another emotional appeal was made on behalf of a German commander by Sir Ambrose Sherwill, then Bailiff of Guernsey. In a letter to Sir Frank Newsum at the Home Office in August 1949, he wrote that the efforts of Colonel Fritz Bandelow "saved me and a lot of others from death or long terms of imprisonment when we were caught helping two British officers, who came to reconnoitre in Guernsey." He asked for the government to help find a good job for Bandelow, possibly in the German frontier police.



Encroaching enemy: Alderney's trapped citizens were left close to panic



Pleas for help: many documents have been released 50 years before schedule

IRA bomb injures 27 in shopping precinct

Twenty-seven people were injured yesterday, at least one seriously, when an IRA incendiary bomb exploded in the centre of Belfast about 90 seconds after a ten-minute warning had been given. The explosion, just before 10am, started a fire in the offices of a travel agent in a busy pedestrian precinct. Most of the injured were women working in the offices, but one man suffered serious burns and was in intensive care.

The IRA later admitted launching what appears to have been a bungled firebomb attack, which might mark the beginning of a new incendiary campaign against shops in the run-up to Christmas.

A second bomb was reported to have exploded later at a car components shop in Ormeau Avenue, Belfast. Police said there were no reports of injuries.

Divorce girl's case ends

The 14-year-old girl who took legal action to gain the right to live away from her parents was reconciled with them under a private agreement reached in the High Court yesterday. The girl, of Ufford, northeast London, had been troubled by pressures at home after her parents' divorce. Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division, who presided, did not disclose whether she had been granted her wish to continue living with the family of her 18-year-old boy friend. Under the agreement, the girl will remain a ward of court.

EC police plan falters

Proposals to establish a European Community police network on January 1 were set back yesterday when justice ministers meeting in London could not agree on the site of its headquarters. They spent nearly two hours discussing The Hague, Strasbourg and Rome for Europe's permanent base and the nationality of its first full-time co-ordinator. The dispute will be referred to the EC heads of government summit in Edinburgh later this month. If they cannot agree, the Europol plans could be delayed for months.

Defendant attacked

George Heron, the man accused of murdering Nikki Allen, a seven-year-old Sunderland girl, has been wounded in an attack while in Durham prison awaiting trial. He received cuts above an eye, one of which required four stitches. Mr Heron, 23, has been in the prison since he was charged six weeks ago. Another inmate allegedly confronted him on Friday and is now facing an enquiry that is expected to result in criminal charges.

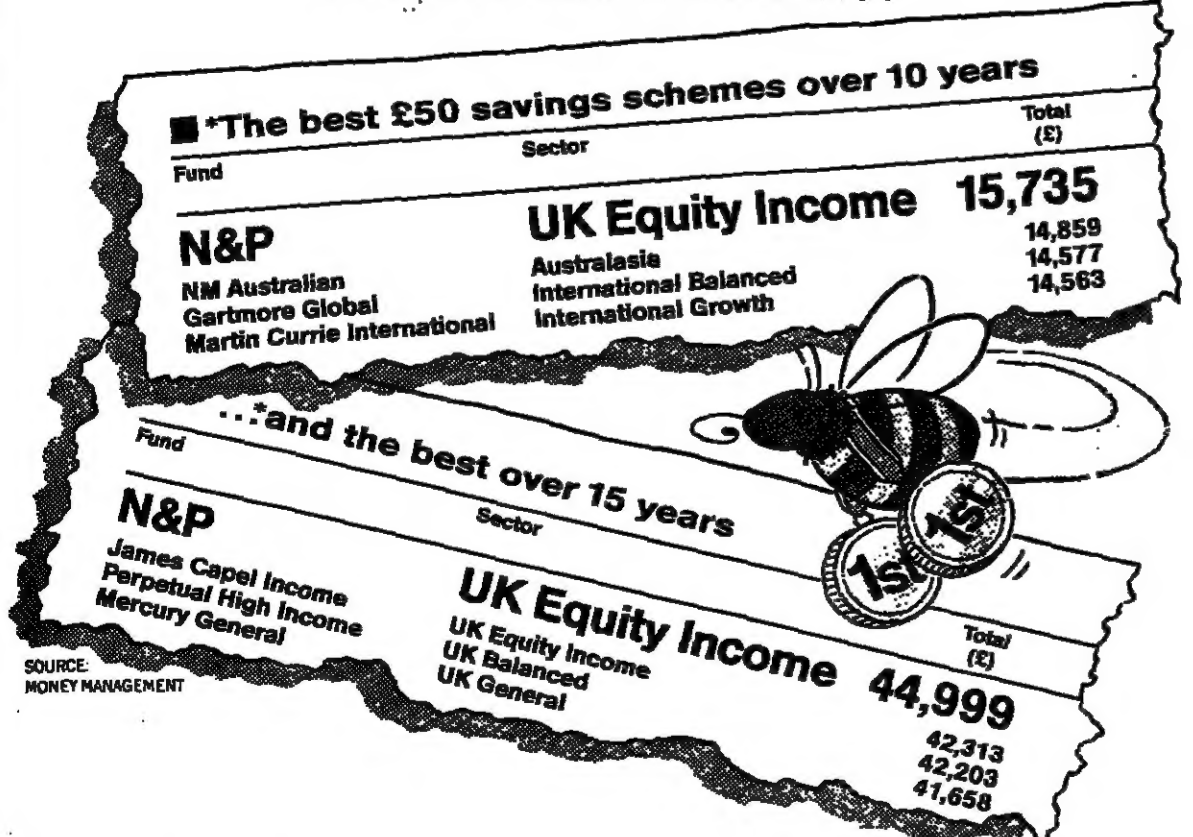
Churches lobby MPs

More than 2,000 people from church groups around Britain lobbied MPs at Westminster, London, yesterday in a plea for the government to tackle homelessness and bad housing. The Churches' National Housing Coalition, which organised the lobby, is calling for 100,000 new affordable homes each year during this decade.

Waugh home for sale

The former home of the author Evelyn Waugh has been put up for sale at £1 million, £250,000 less than when it was sold four years ago. Piers Court at Stinchcombe, Gloucestershire, an Elizabethan house with Georgian facade and Victorian interior, was sold by the author in 1956 for £950,000. It is being offered by the agents Knight, Frank and Rutley.

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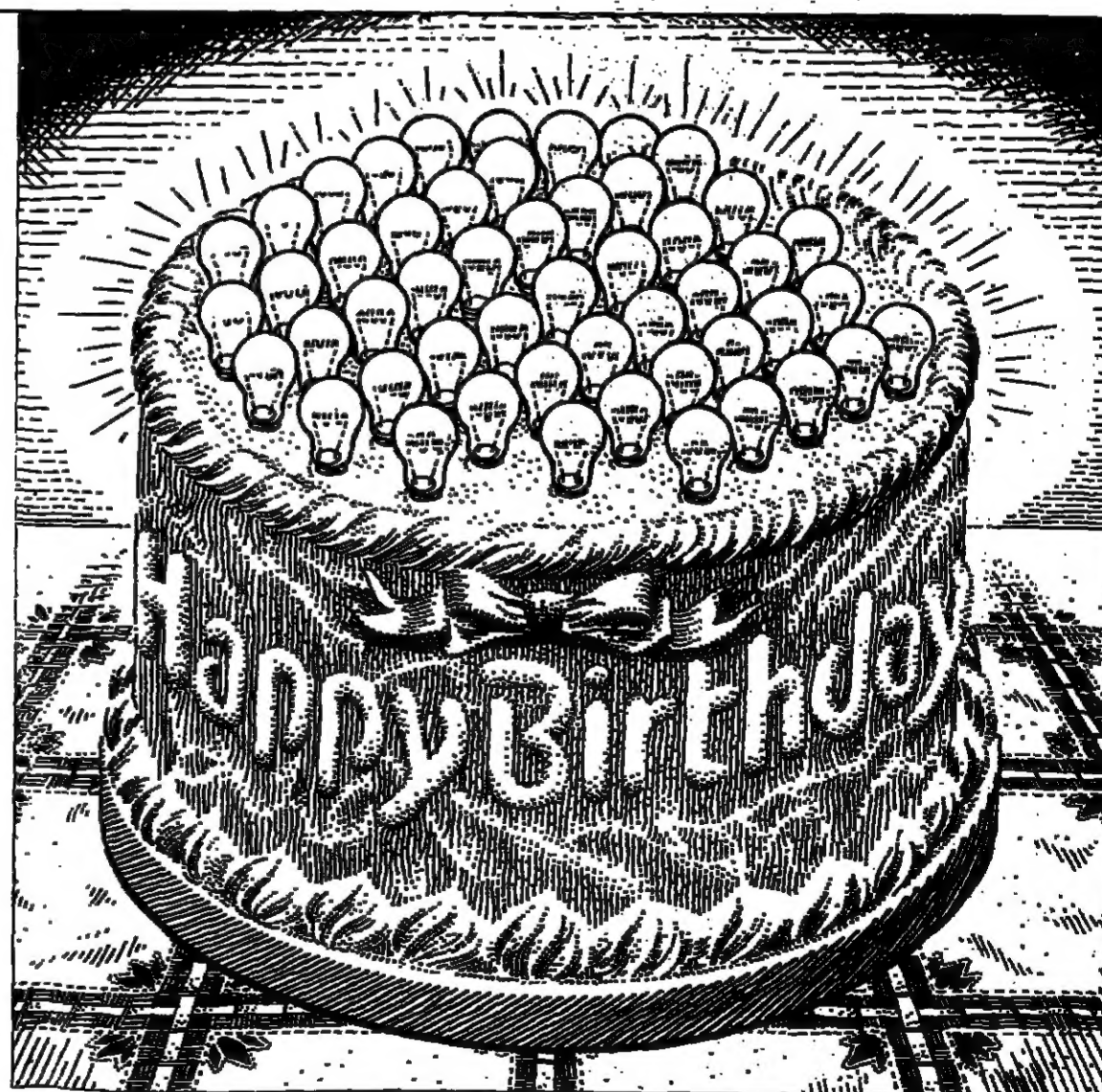


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'Disgrace' gibe forces response

Mackay starts review of judges' workload

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

THE Lord Chancellor has conceded the case for action to tackle the shortage of judges which the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosford, said was becoming a "national disgrace".

Responding to comments made by Lord Taylor in his Dimpleby Lecture, broadcast on Monday, Lord Mackay of Clashfern yesterday said that one responsibility of those in government was to "listen to constructive criticism".

He did not promise more High Court judges, but told BBC television that he had "taken account" of the views of Lord Taylor and set up a working party on how High Court judges were deployed, which he hoped would resolve the issue.

Lord Mackay's swift response, in which he said that the Lord Chief Justice's authority was "of the utmost respect", could be seen as a wish to avoid repetition of the strained relationship between him and Lord Taylor's predecessor, Lord Lane.

The question of resources for the High Court is the first over which Lord Taylor and Lord Mackay have clashed, although it was a disputed

matter between the Lord Chancellor and Lord Lane. Behind the rhetoric however, the Lord Chief Justice acknowledges that, as with legal aid, the real battle is with the Treasury. At a time of stringency in public spending, Lord Mackay needs statistics to make a convincing case that judges are working at full capacity, are not "wasting time" in handling cases which could be handled at a lower judicial tier and that the delays are not caused by inefficiency.

The difficulties centre on the mounting backlogs of cases. Delays, with costs, are still the law's biggest failing, despite recent reforms to the civil courts in which a large amount of work was devolved from the High Court to the county court.

There are 83 High Court judges, but that is not enough to tackle the huge numbers of cases, many of which are being handled instead by QCs or circuit judges sitting as deputy High Court judges.

In a Lords debate last month, Lord Taylor said the situation was intolerable and gave warning that, by January, "there will be no High Court judges available" to try

civil cases at all. He predicted that the situation would soon "truly become a national disgrace and be seen as such by the public at large". It would become apparent that "the system has almost broken down".

His language is a measure of his concern and he is not alone. The senior judge of the commercial court, Mr Justice Saville, is so concerned about the shortage in his court that he has begun a campaign to drive home the message to the Lord Chancellor. Big City institutions such as the Baltic Exchange, the British Bankers' Association, the Association of British Insurers, Lloyd's of London and the Department of Trade and Industry support him and are expected to discuss their concerns soon with the Lord Chancellor.

Usually, the commercial court can just manage its workload with its full six judges. At present, it operates with five and may only have four in January because not all judges who retire are replaced. Now the court is struggling with a backlog that could not be wiped out even if the full complement of six judges was provided at once.

Judges in other divisions face similar difficulties. Lord Taylor is particularly concerned that, in the Court of Appeal criminal division, people are "lingering in prison for months awaiting their appeals, which if successful, will show that they should not have been there at all".

In judicial review, in which people challenge decisions by public authorities, delays were intolerable. People by statute have to lodge an application for judicial review in three months. But the waiting time of 18 months before a case is heard makes that rule absurd, Lord Taylor says.

In the Chancery division, the delay for cases of more than three days is 22 months. In the Employment Appeal Tribunal, presided over by a High Court judge, there is a backlog of 930 appeals.

In the Lords debate, Lord Irvine of Lairg said the single most important cause of delay in the High Court was the "shortage of full-time judge power". By January, there would be no High Court judges to try such cases as professional negligence claims and big breach of contract actions. He queried whether long-term use of deputy judges was lawful.

The working party, set up by Lord Taylor and Lord Mackay, will not report for several months. Lord Mackay will be under pressure to expedite its findings.

Letters, page 17

Lawyers join forces to give free legal aid

By Our Legal Correspondent

AGROUP of 24 of the City's leading law firms and barristers' chambers have formed a funding consortium that will help victims of the recession obtain free legal advice.

The aim is to provide London citizens' advice bureaux with extra resources—human and financial—to help them cope with the mounting number of people seeking advice on debt, housing and employment.

The firms and chambers involved have each committed themselves to up to £5,000 a year over two years. They include Clyde & Co, Ince & Co, Clifford Chance, Cameron Markby, Denton Hall, Theodore Goddard, Boodle Hatfield, Charles Russell, Stephenson Harwood, Farrer & Co, Trowers & Hamlin and Lovell White Durrant.

The chambers include Brick Court Chambers, 11 King's Bench Walk, 39 Essex Street, Francis Taylor Buildings, 6 Pump Court, 4 Raymond Buildings, 7 Stone Buildings, 2 Essex Court, 3 Gray's Inn Place, 1

Harcourt Buildings, 12 New Square and 2/3 Gray's Inn Square.

More recruits are needed if the group is to meet its target. It aims to raise £185,000 from the legal profession to fund three more posts in the service offered by CABs in London.

The initiative, launched yesterday, has the backing of the Court of Appeal judge Sir Leonard Hoffmann, who is chairman of the appeal committee. He said it "enables solicitors and barristers to combine public spirit with the interests of their respective firms and chambers in providing excellent training for the young".

Although driven by the recession, the scheme has its origins in the free (pro bono) work done for CABs by commercial solicitors and barristers for many years.

There is a spin-off for the firms in that their trainees can experience work different from the world of commercial law. It also gives young lawyers a chance to have a much bigger role in a case.

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Pioneers of
N-test back
expansionBy Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

FIFTY years after the first controlled nuclear fission reaction, two veterans of that experiment yesterday called for greater investment in nuclear power.

Harold Agnew and Warren Nyer, who were present in Chicago on December 2, 1942, when a team under the direction of Enrico Fermi brought the first reactor into operation, said yesterday that nuclear power was safe, reliable and deserved support.

The two will take part in a conference at the Science Museum in London today to mark the anniversary. Yesterday, they attended a press conference organised by the British Nuclear Forum, the trade association of the nuclear industry, which is attempting to ensure that the dispute over pit closures will not be resolved at the expense of nuclear power.

John Collier, chairman of Nuclear Electric, said that since the first plant came on stream at Calder Hall in 1956, Britain had generated 1,000 billion units of nuclear electricity, worth £30 billion at present prices. The industry will next week report a significant improvement in half-yearly profits.

This week's celebrations mark the golden jubilee of one of the century's most important tests: the demonstration that nuclear fission could be controlled, its energy released slowly enough to be used as a source of power. The achievement was a key step in developing the nuclear bomb.

Diary, page 16



Winning smile: social worker Debbie Owen, 32, of Catford, southeast London, named Working Mother Of The Year yesterday by the Working Mothers Association, with her children Dominic and Faye

Surgery computer thefts raise fears of blackmail

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

A SHARP rise in the theft of computers from doctors' surgeries has led to increasing numbers of patients' medical records falling into the hands of burglars and potential blackmailers.

In the past six months, the number of general practitioners seeking advice from the office of the data protection registrar after the theft of a surgery computer has risen by nearly 700 per cent.

The office believes that most thieves do not want patient records and just want to sell the computers. But officials fear that files could include delicate information on someone in public life that the purchaser of the stolen computer might decide to use maliciously.

"Even a local VIP could be at risk. Their patient records could be used by someone for blackmail purposes. It is a very dangerous situation," said the spokeswoman.

The office, based in Wiltshire, has heard of 20 thefts during the past six months but believes this is the tip of the iceberg as holders of personal, electronically held information are not legally required to report a theft. Until this year, there had been about six of the thefts each year.

The act's eighth principle does, however, require GPs to have tight security to protect patient records held on computers.

Eric Howe, the data protection registrar, yesterday

warned GPs to review their security and said they could otherwise be breaking the law. "Steps must be taken to ensure that even if a computer is stolen, easy access to the data held on it is barred and the information is backed up on files held elsewhere," he said.

"Good security also requires commonsense disciplines that might be as simple as storing disks in lockable fireproof cabinets."

Changes in the way general practice is funded and the availability of government grants for computerising surgeries have led to an explosion in the number of patients' records held electronically. About 7,000 NHS practices are believed to keep patient records in this way.

Simon Jenkins, a family doctor in Manchester and the chairman of the British Medical Association's GP subcommittee on computing, yesterday denied suggestions that security at surgeries was lax.

The committee has recently circulated a code of practice to advise GPs on how to meet the act and keep computer records safe, said Dr Jenkins. The code, which has been endorsed by Mr Howe, included keeping the computer in a secure room and the use of passwords to prevent access by unauthorised people.

Dr Jenkins said that stealing computers was part of a general increase in surgery thefts, which were often drug-related.

WRITTEN ON A
£1500
PERSONAL COMPUTER

27th July 1992

Mr K J Johnson
Managing Director
Smith International Ltd
44 The High Road
Rickmansworth Herts
WD3 2HS

Dear Mr Johnson

Further to our telephone conversation last week, I have the pleasure in enclosing two copies of your latest Consumer Analysis Report for the last six months.

The annual sales figures have now been released and I have outlined below the quarterly unit sales for 1990 and 1991.

Period	1990	1991
1st Quarter	41,030	45,300
2nd Quarter	39,200	47,550
3rd Quarter	41,560	46,670
4th Quarter	36,700	49,120
Total	160,910	184,640

If you would like to discuss the content of the report, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

T B Dickson
MANAGING DIRECTORWRITTEN ON OUR
£399
PERSONAL WORD PROCESSOR

27th July 1992

Mr K J Johnson
Managing Director
Smith International Ltd
44 The High Road
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Dear Mr Johnson

Further to our telephone conversation last week, I have the pleasure in enclosing two copies of your latest Consumer Analysis Report for the last six months.

The annual sales figures have now been released and I have outlined below the quarterly unit sales for 1990 and 1991.

Period	1990	1991
1st Quarter	21,530	24,300
2nd Quarter	20,500	24,550
3rd Quarter	21,660	24,670
4th Quarter	18,100	25,120
Total	82,290	98,640

If you would like to discuss the content of the report, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

T B Dickson
MANAGING DIRECTORIF YOU CANNOT
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The Wash becomes biggest nature reserve

Watery haven: more than 25,000 acres of The Wash were designated a national nature reserve yesterday (John Young writes). The area, more than twice the size of any other reserve in England, consists of open water, sandbanks, mudflats and marshes.

The land has been leased by English Nature from the Crown Estate Commissioners for 17 years for 80p an acre. It has been dedicated to the

memory of Sir Peter Scott, the naturalist and author and the founder of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. In the 1930s, he lived in a lighthouse on the east bank of the river Nene, where he established his first wildfowl collection.

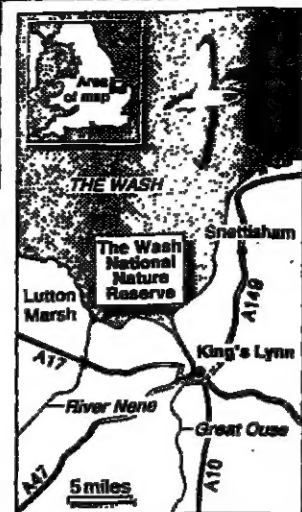
Derek Langslow, chief executive of English Nature, said yesterday: "Britain's estuaries are important in a European and world context. At peak

times, there can be more than 280,000 birds in The Wash alone. We have an international obligation to do all we can to protect wildlife."

English Nature, the government's official advisory body on nature conservation, has undertaken to work closely with other interests including commercial fishermen, wildfowlers, the armed services and farmers. Management will be overseen by a

board with representatives from organisations including the National Farmers' Union, water companies and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

The areas bordered on either side by smaller reserves already managed by English Nature, the RSPB and the Lincolnshire Trust for Nature Conservation. Together they make up 18 per cent of the area of The Wash.



Computer catwalk puts world of fashion into focus

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

EERIE human-like figures that walk across a computer screen swinging their hips to a throbbing beat have been created by researchers at Nottingham Trent University.

The humanoids, computer-generated after detailed studies of the way the world's leading fashion models move, are part of research aimed at producing a virtual reality catwalk.

Its development demonstrates how computer technology is starting to transform one of the world's more conservative industries. The complexities of making lace, for example, mean that it can take two weeks and more than £10,000 to produce a sample. Consequently, lace designs are often still highly conservative.

Computer-aided design technology allows designers to make and weave a pattern on screen, enabling them to tackle new and imaginative ideas.

The catwalk concept, which is attracting interest from fabric firms such as Courtaulds and electronic companies including GEC Plessey, may transform the way fashion designers and garment-makers unveil the latest designs.

Instead of booking a vast auditorium, hiring expen-

sive flesh-and-blood models, lighting technicians and musicians, designers will be able to select, clothe and choreograph the world's most glamorous women and men in their studios for an audience of one or 100. Up-and-coming designers could take their designs to the buyers of leading top stores on a portable computer. Also, designers could parade their models in the streets of New York, inside the Taj Mahal or on a South Seas beach.

The virtual reality catwalk is the work of a team led by Stephen Gray, a senior research fellow and an adviser on computer-aided design and manufacturing to the Design Council. Details will be presented today in London at Investing in Design by Computer 1992, which has been organised by the council.

The project is intended to produce three-dimensional, computer-generated skeletons to which will be linked muscle and flesh. "They would be your library of models. You could say, 'I want a Marie Helvin or a Naomi Campbell'. Equally, you could have a model that looks like Naomi Campbell but walks like someone else," Mr Gray said.

Looks, page 15



Body language: a virtual reality model

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Phone for an appointment by calling us on 0800 36 36 36, any time of the day or night. The call will cost you nothing. Not calling might cost you your MOT.

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Parents tell of abuse injustice

THE ultimate sanction of taking a child away from its parents should be used only as a last resort, Tim Yeo, junior health minister, said yesterday. He was commenting on a report that outlined the impact on families of false accusations of child abuse.

Mr Yeo said that where there was evidence of abuse, it might be better for the family to "work it out".

An independent report by Dr Jon Prosser of Westminster College, Oxford, published by the group Parents Against Injustice, highlighted the suffering of 30 families where there was a wrong accusation of abuse. The report said that parents and carers suspected of abuse were being denied legal rights. Under the Children Act, parents have a right to give their opinion and to be kept informed on all stages of an investigation.

The study showed that only one in five had been involved during all stages of child protection conferences. Another 16 per cent were involved in only part of the conferences.

All the case histories in Dr Prosser's report dated back to the mid-1980s - before the enquiry into the Cleveland child abuse scandal and well before the Children Act became law in October 1990. Parents said that they were assumed from the outset to be guilty and faced undue pressure to admit it. They suffered stress, trauma, financial pressure and marital problems.

Mr Yeo told BBC Radio 4's Today programme that the report was valuable as a reminder of the "terrible agony" which could be inflicted "by false accusations, by thoughtless, insensitive and even over-zealous intervention by social services".

He added: "At the same time I do think we have to recognise the hideously difficult judgment for a social worker who is told that there may be abuse taking place in a family. If they ignore that completely and it turns out to be well-founded, then they are condemned for not taking action. The nuclear weapon of actually taking a child away should only be used in the very last resort."

The way it isn't

CRAIG BROWN



HOW does one explain the bizarrely rapid switch from genuflection to peevishness in regard to royalty in so many national newspapers? The answer, I suspect lies less in the much advertised "sea-change in public opinion" or in the behaviour of individual members of the royal family than in the age of editors.

These days, a newspaper editor can expect to hold on to his chair for about as long as a mafia boss in a barber's shop. The present gang are by and large in their late thirties and early forties, products of the sixties hippie generation. Twenty-five years ago, they would have been preaching the merits of making love not war, wistfully hoping for the brotherhood of man and mouth- ing the lyrics of Bob Dylan over a selection of joss-sticks.

In the late sixties and early seventies, the world of journalism was pleasantly liberal, lazy and hedonistic, the perfect resting place for an ex-hippy. Ten years went by and suddenly after Eddie Shah and Wapping, journalists turned sober, thoughtful and, above all, affluent. Their new-found wealth and ambition meant that their natural guardian was no longer Labour or the Liberals but the Conservative party.

The plot thickens. Looking for a handy way to appease their ex-socialist hearts without incurring the wrath of their pockets, they turned to - and on - the royal family. "But at least I'm still a republican," they can now snap back at their youthful dreams.

For those who want to remain old hippies at heart, calling for an end to the monarchy remains the only method that is entirely tax free.

Major's package tour of Europe overshadows empty ritual in the Commons

John Major is having a tough time as he visits European capitals ahead of next week's EC summit in Edinburgh. What he achieves on his package tour will have much more bearing on the Maastricht treaty than what happens on the floor of the Commons.

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

business. We will hear much more from them over the next six or seven months.

Thanks to the open-mindedness and firmness of Michael Morris, the deputy Speaker, who chairs the committee, points of order only lasted 83 minutes before the debate proper started. This was a brief interlude compared with the two days of debate in the Commons when the original EC entry bill was debated in 1972.

It was all rather an empty ritual.

Proceedings on the bill will, for the moment, be a test of stamina and discipline, though there is always scope for mishaps on procedural votes. Judging by yesterday's listing of amendments, the most serious threat to the government will not occur until late February or March, when the European central bank and monetary union will be considered.

The main influence on the debates will be what is happening in the EC as a whole and, in particular, whether Denmark agrees to ratify. The bones of an Edinburgh declaration dealing with Danish concerns over citizen-

ship, defence and the like, have been prepared. In practice this issue, plus new guidelines on subsidiarity and a negotiating mandate on enlargement, will turn on whether a deal can be reached on future EC financing.

Many of the weekend headlines about splits and the like can be discounted. Little in the EC is resolved until the last minute. But even the normally optimistic Mr Major conceded yesterday after meeting Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish prime minister, that there are "very sharp differences" across the EC on

future financing. They managed, he said, to identify "many areas of difficulty". It was the same in Lisbon. After talks with the Portuguese government, Mr Major sounded downbeat, admitting that summits often started with many things unresolved.

At issue are both the size of the EC budget and its distribution, with Spain and Portugal pressing for a larger cohesion fund to benefit low-income countries. There are big differences within the EC between the wealthier northern states and the poorer southern ones.

There are two further twists

which have isolated Britain. First, both sides within the Tory party, pro-European and sceptic, are ideologically opposed to a big expansion of the EC budget, in contrast to the more interventionist approach of many Continental governments. Second, Britain's refusal to agree to any change in its painfully negotiated rebate has brought much wider criticism.

So Mr Major faces twin dangers in Edinburgh. First, that in order to reach a broader agreement covering Denmark, subsidiarity, and enlargement, he has to make concessions on the budget which would anger many in his own

party and increase opposition to the Maastricht bill, making its passage much more difficult. Second, if the summit fails to reach agreement—or, more likely, ends with a last-minute formula which does not fully resolve the Danish issue—then the government will not be able to get the bill through the Commons.

The odds are still just, that some sort of compromise will be patched together. But both the future of the government's European policy and Mr Major's political standing are at stake over the next ten days.

PETER RIDDELL

Euro-rebels offered hope of Maastricht referendum vote

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MPs MAY be allowed a vote on a referendum on the Maastricht treaty, the Commons was told yesterday as it embarked on what threatens to be months of bitter argument and procedural wrangling over the details of the European Communities (amendment) bill.

In a move calculated to appeal to Conservative and Labour Euro-sceptics alike, Michael Morris, the deputy Speaker, said he hoped they would find a way of "finessing" an amendment to the bill that was in order and would allow a vote to be taken.

Mr Morris, the chairman of the bill's committee stage, was

replying to protests from Sir Teddy Taylor and Tony Benn over his decision to disallow existing amendments seeking to engineer a vote on a referendum. The anti-Maastricht lobby is keen to force a division over a referendum because it believes the issue could provoke the kind of cross-party alliance that might subject ministers to an embarrassing defeat.

Sir Teddy, a leading figure among the 26 Conservative MPs dedicated to disrupting the bill's passage, said that the people should be given a say over handing over their rights and freedoms to Brussels. Mr Morris has rejected all

attempts to date to table a referendum amendment on the grounds that the bill cannot be amended to require the spending of public funds. However, he invited Sir Teddy to continue searching for the right form of words to put the issue to the test. "If he shows his usual ingenuity and his usual degree of creativity, he may yet succeed, but there is no money resolution associated with this bill."

Mr Benn, a former Labour cabinet minister, pleaded with Mr Morris to spare MPs the trouble of "playing games with the clerks" in trying to formulate an acceptable referendum amendment. He said

that at the outset the public was entitled to know whether they had any rights in determining whether the treaty became law.

Mr Morris said he hoped MPs could find an amendment that was "appropriate and in order". They should "hone down" their amendments so that he could accept them.

The opening shots in what promises to be a long war of attrition between the Euro-sceptics and the government were marked by a string of points of order in which MPs protested about Mr Morris's selection of amendments, sought clarification of the meaning of the treaty and swapped insults with their opponents.

The sharpest clash came between Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, and Sir Edward Heath, the former prime minister. Mr Skinner, objecting to Mr Morris's meeting with MPs on Monday which led to press reports that the existing referendum motions would be rejected, said there was something "sinister" going on. When the government and the Opposition front benches were in agreement, views of backbenchers were treated with "disdain". Sir Edward hurried to the chairman's defence. Pledging support for Mr Morris, he said that he hoped Mr Skinner would withdraw his "outrageous allegations" once he calmed down.

Twenty years ago, the first two days of the committee stage of the bill taking Britain into the Common Market were given over to points of order. The opening skirmishing ended with a censure motion against the chair, which was predictably lost. Yesterday proved a bristlier affair. After only 83 minutes, Sir Russell Johnston, the Liberal Democrat spokesman, got the debate under way by calling for the opening preamble to the treaty, setting out the goals of "ever closer union", to be included in the bill.

Parties agree, page 11

Danish proposals face test

By PHILIP WEBSTER, AND EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

JOHN Major's tour of European capitals in the run-up to the Edinburgh summit reaches a critical point today when he tests the Danish government's reaction to proposals aimed at helping Denmark ratify the Maastricht treaty.

Mr Major admitted "very sharp differences" over future financing of the EC after his talks yesterday with Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish prime minister, in Madrid. British ministers believe a deal on financing is the key to a successful outcome at Edinburgh but in Madrid, and later in Lisbon, Mr Major encountered strong opposition to his plans to cut back the increases in spending proposed by Jacques Delors, the European Commission president.

Without a satisfactory agreement for Denmark, the Maastricht treaty will never be ratified. Today Mr Major will tell Poul Schlöter, the Danish prime minister, of the response of EC governments so far to the idea of an Edinburgh declaration attempting to deal with Denmark's wor-

ries on the defence, citizenship, interior justice and single currency provisions of the treaty.

Denmark needs to be satisfied on those areas before it can press ahead with a second referendum next year, but Britain and the rest of the EC are adamant that the treaty should not be renegotiated. The hope is that the declaration will meet its worries although there is a risk of other countries demanding the special treatment accorded to Denmark, particularly on citizenship.

After his talks with Señor Gonzalez Mr Major said that "many of the areas of agreement are becoming clearer and the areas of difficulty are beginning to become sharper". He added: "I do not anticipate failing to agree at Edinburgh and I have found no contrary feeling among any of the heads of government I have met. Everyone is determined to reach agreement if at all possible."

However, while Señor Gonzalez also wants an agreement, he needs much more than the "serious and acceptable" one

proposed by Mr Major. As a beneficiary of cohesion funds, Spain is determined to fight the British proposals to reduce the EC budget by halting contributions from the rich countries to help the poorer ones like Spain catch up in order to create a more balanced Europe.

He called on Mr Major to overcome the political uncertainties, such as the necessity for Denmark and Britain to ratify Maastricht, that are in turn aggravating the economic situation.

Later Portugal gave a thumbs-down to the financing proposals and suggested the EC could not admit new members without an agreement. Anibal Cavaco Silva, the prime minister, told a press conference after his meeting with Mr Major: "Portugal had the opportunity to put forward its disappointment with the proposal on EC finance presented [by Britain]. We cannot go forward with enlarging the European Community without resolving the problem of financing the EC."



House to House: a protester makes her point outside Parliament yesterday. More than 2,000 members of church groups lobbied MPs to demand action on homelessness and

had housing in a campaign organised by the National Housing Coalition. About 85 MPs signed an early day motion calling for greater investment in housing for the homeless.

Union attacks Labour review group

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LABOUR'S review of its links with the trade unions came under attack yesterday from one of the review's own trade union members.

The attack by the AEEU engineering and electrical union on the failure of the review group to endorse fully the operation in key Labour party operations of the principle of one member, one vote underlines the public difficulties the Labour leadership is

likely to face over the issue of its links with the unions.

The AEEU executive yesterday agreed to hold to the one member, one vote principle. It said the union might draw up a minority report for the party conference if the review group sticks to the idea of "registered supporters"—union members who pay the political levy—having a say in the selection and reelection of MPs.

A paper to the executive

from Nigel Harris, the AEEU's member of the review group, said this idea was "deeply flawed", that its cost would be "horrendous" and it would give Militant and other entryist groups a fresh opportunity to come into the party.

Mr Harris said yesterday that the review group had failed to address its terms of reference properly.

Leading article, page 17

AROUND THE LOBBY

Borrie to lead study of poverty

The Labour party has asked Sir Gordon Borrie to undertake a review of Britain's tax and benefit system to redress the widening gap between the rich and the poor.

Sir Gordon, former director-general of the Office of Fair Trading, is to chair the party's commission of social tasks, whose membership and terms of reference will be announced before the recess. Labour is expecting his study to mirror the Beveridge report published 50 years ago yesterday—which laid the foundations for the welfare state.

Power cut

Average electricity prices paid by industry have fallen by 12 per cent since the industry was privatised, Tim Eggar, energy minister, said in a written reply.

That's no lady

Laughter brought Commons question time to a halt when Tony Newton, leader of the House, referred to Michael Fabrikant (Mid Staffordshire, Ch.) as "the Honourable Lady". Mr Newton apologised, saying the error had not been caused by deficient eyesight, but because the first person "in my sight-line" had been Labour's Joan Walley.

In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: trade and industry. European Communities (amendment) bill, committee, second day. Lords (2.30): Debate on the Tomlinson report on hospital provision in London.

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'Propaganda intended to upset shares'

London tells Peking Patten is set on reform

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND JAMES PRINGLE IN HONG KONG

BRITAIN yesterday warned China that its policy on Hong Kong would not be derailed by the current Chinese campaign against Chris Patten, the governor.

"The propaganda points are designed to rock Hong Kong opinion, to undermine the Hang Seng index and the governor," a Whitehall official said. "They are not based on law or on negotiations. We are absolutely clear on that. This is a time for steady nerves. There are plenty of those in London and in Government House in Hong Kong."

Whitehall would not comment on the attack in *The Times* by Sir Percy Cradock, a former foreign policy adviser to Margaret Thatcher, on British policy over Hong Kong. But one official re-

marked: "This government and this governor have no intention of being derailed by the current Chinese campaign. We'll just batten down and get on with it."

Despite threats from Peking to tear up the joint agreement, Britain would never unilaterally renounce the agreement. "That would leave us with nothing. There would be no way to make preparations for the future," the official said. Britain insisted that the ship- ping terminal contracts were valid under international law, and such contracts were explicitly guaranteed under the joint declaration.

In Hong Kong, Mr Patten said he would not abandon his proposals to widen democracy despite a falling stock market, which yesterday plummeted a further 308 points, causing

near panic at one stage. "I honestly don't believe that the right way for me to respond in the present circumstances is to abandon the position which I believe to be rational," he told anxious members of the Legislative Council, the group he would like to re-shape into a feisty parliamentary body.

"I remain keen on dialogue, keen on rational discussion and keen on mobilising as much consent as possible for the arrangements that will need to be in place for 1995," when elections are to be held.

Reporting to a special legislative session on his recent visits to Canada, Britain and Japan, Mr Patten noted that he planned to introduce legislation on his proposals expanding democracy before the end of February, a showdown date when the council will have to approve them — risking Chinese fury or not. However, a spokesman for the Chinese side in the Joint Liaison Group, set up to pave the way to a smooth transition in 1997, said last night that the Hong Kong government should supply a list of all franchises straining the 1997 period: these affect companies involved in electricity, telecommunications, harbour tunnels and transport projects.

Ronald Arculli, a council member, said last night that Mr Patten had failed to offer any sign of hope in overcoming the apparent impasse in Sino-British relations. He noted that Mr Patten kept asking for proposals better than his own. "In effect, that is like asking people not to make any proposals."

Lord Howe of Aberavon arrived in Peking yesterday at the head of a delegation investigating human rights abuses. He will meet Wu Xueqian, former foreign minister.

□ **Euroair link:** China inaugurated a rail link stretching across Asia to Europe yesterday when a freight train left Liaryugang in Jiangsu province on a 6,700-mile journey to Rotterdam in The Netherlands. (Reuters)

Shares fall, page 23
Comment, page 25

Buthlezi draws up Natal constitution

By MICHAEL HAMLYN IN ULUNDI AND RAY KENNEDY

CHIEF Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the chief minister of the self-governing black homeland of KwaZulu, and president of the mainly Zulu Inkatha Freedom party, yesterday published a constitution for KwaZulu and Natal, the province that geographically contains it. The move is evidently intended to encourage discussion of a strongly federal future for South Africa.

The chief's constitution allocates to a federal republic of South Africa responsibility for the coinage, defence, international relations, communications — and for very little else. All other matters are reserved for the state of KwaZulu-Natal. Even national taxation may not be raised in the putative state without its consent.

The constitution was approved in Ulundi yesterday morning by Chief Buthelezi's obedient KwaZulu legislative assembly, and the next step, he said, was for a referendum to be held throughout KwaZulu and Natal to approve it. The

document would be submitted to the Joint Executive Authority, a device set up in 1986 to marry the interests of the province with those of KwaZulu. The South African government would be unlikely to block the move, as President de Klerk has already said that a federal future is his preferred solution to protecting the interests of cultural minorities.

Yesterday a senior official of the Azanian People's Liberation Army, the armed wing of Pan Africanist Congress, stated that it had carried out the attack on a golf club function in King William's Town in which four whites were killed and 17 people injured, the South African Press Association reported. The official said that there would be further attacks.

Two South African policemen were murdered in a black township yesterday, bringing to ten the number killed since the weekend. Both those who were killed yesterday in Daveyton, east of Johannesburg, were black.



Shocking news: Amy Fisher, 18, listening as a New York judge passed sentence on her yesterday. Her victim asked that Fisher serve at least 7½ years

Girl jailed for shooting love rival

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

A TEENAGE girl from Long Island was sentenced to five to 15 years in prison yesterday for shooting the wife of a man she said was her boyfriend.

The case, known in New York as the "Teen Attraction love-triangle shooting", attracted national attention and turned 18-year-old Amy Fisher into one of the city's most notorious crooks, dubbed "Long Island Lolita" by the city's press.

Sentencing Fisher for the shooting of Mary Jo Buttafuoco, whose husband Joey Buttafuoco denies having an affair with the teenager, the New York judge said: "Your acts... were not spontaneous. For many months, you had stalked Mary Jo Buttafuoco, like a wild animal stalks its prey. To this court you are no celebrity. In the eyes of this court you are a tragedy and a disgrace. You deserve no less than the maximum sentence I can impose by law. Motivated by lust and passion, you were a walking stick of dynamite with the fuse lit."

Mrs Buttafuoco, 37, who was left partially disabled by the shooting, asked the judge to recommend that Fisher serve at least seven-and-a-half years in prison before becoming eligible for parole.

Journalists restricted by Israel

Jerusalem: Israel's government indefinitely suspended the press accreditations of correspondents working for an American and a British newspaper for bypassing military censorship.

Uri Dromi, head of the government press office, said he had withdrawn press cards from Carol Rosenberg of the *Miami Herald* and Ian Black of *The Guardian*. He said four other foreign correspondents, including Richard Beeston of *The Times*, would be summoned for a formal warning. Suspension of accreditation severely limits reporting.

"The reason was severe censorship violations by writing the stories about the Tse'lim accident without submitting them to military censorship," Mr Dromi said.

Rosenberg wrote that the November 5 missile accident, in which five soldiers were killed, occurred in training for the planned assassination of Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, the Hezbollah guerrilla leader in Lebanon.

Black said Israeli officials had encouraged foreign publication of details of the accident in an effort to inform their own people. The Israeli media focused on the feud inside the military after the incident, but did not disclose details. (Reuters)

Family loses claim to US island lost in war

By BEN MACINTYRE

What may well be the final battle of the American Revolution ended bloodlessly this week when the US Supreme Court ruled that the descendants of a British loyalist had no right to ownership of a 445-acre island off New York State which was seized by American revolutionaries in 1779.

For three years the Wickham family has sought to prove that a distant ancestor, a sheep farmer and local magistrate named Parker Wickham, was unfairly deprived of his island off the eastern coast of Long Island by vengeful revolutionaries, and that the land should be returned to them so it can be made into a nature reserve.

However, on Monday the Supreme Court upheld an earlier ruling, saying that the family had waited 200 years too long before making their claim.

When the war broke out in 1775, Wickham chose to remain a loyal subject of George III — this was hardly surprising since the British still controlled most of New York. "Long Island was enemy-occupied for seven years," says John Wickham, one of Wickham's descendants, adding that "everybody made some accommodation".

The luckless Wickham was subsequently kidnapped and imprisoned by the American revolutionaries and his land

was confiscated by the New York legislature. Wickham's descendants argued that New York technically had no jurisdiction over the area at the time, and requested the Supreme Court to overturn the 1779 Act of Attainder by which Wickham and 58 other Tories were reduced to landless penury.

The largest uninhabited island in this part of America, Robin's Island (so named for the flocks of robins which spend the winter there) looks much as it did in 1779, with thick woods, herds of wild deer and unspoiled beaches. The Wickhams' claim, supported by a coalition of environmental groups,

argued that Robin's Island should be left in its pristine state, and they cited none other than Benjamin Franklin in defence. The 1783 Treaty of Peace, drafted by Franklin as well as other prominent American lawyers of the day and their British counterparts, fixed no time limit on claims for restitution arising out of the American War of Independence.

The island was originally purchased in 1715 by Parker Wickham's grandfather, Joseph Wickham, but a New York appeals court ruled last March that "even if Joseph Parker Wickham had a right to title in Robin's island, he and his heirs slept on this right for over two centuries".

US jets collide

Harlem, Montana: Two US military jets on a refuelling mission collided and crashed near the Canadian border. All 13 people aboard were feared killed. In Texas a B-1B bomber crashed during a training flight. Rescuers were searching for its four crew. (AP)

Sikhs kill 16

Delhi: Sikh militants shot dead 16 Hindus after hijacking a bus near Ludhiana in Punjab. Police said the extremists separated the Hindus from Sikhs and women before killing them. (Reuters)

UN blocked

Bangkok: The Thai military restricted UN flights to Cambodia after the security council ordered sanctions against the Khmer Rouge. The military is suspected of having dealings with the Khmer Rouge.

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Farmers converge on Strasbourg in fierce Gatt deal protest

FROM CHARLES BRENNER
IN STRASBOURG

WITH a little help from their neighbours and some Asian rice growers, France's angry farmers staged a 50,000-strong anti-American demonstration in Strasbourg yesterday, burning effigies and firing rockets to hammer home their hatred of the EC-American farm deal agreed under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt).

A motley multinational cortege four miles long wove through the picturesque streets around the edge of old Strasbourg to the Meinau stadium after militants of the CNJA young farmers' union lit a bonfire under the likeness of Carlo Hills, the American trade negotiator, President Bush and Ray MacSharry, the EC agricultural commissioner. "Gatt equals misery and hunger" expressed the common sentiment of the mass of French, Germans, Italians, Spanish, Austrians, Swiss, Irish, Belgians, Japanese and South Koreans. Half a dozen militants were injured in scuffles with the police, one losing a hand after being struck by a tear-gas grenade.

The demonstration, under gloomy grey skies, served a double purpose. It reminded

French peasants went to town with rockets for the Americans and set off fireworks to support their president. The peaceful Japanese and Koreans came too

President Mitterrand that the farmers would not be appeased and it helped the government to convince its European partners that not only was France up in arms over the Gatt accord but some of their own citizens were joining in.

In the early evening, firecrackers and rockets, all fired by the French, shrieked and banged over the crowded stadium as the show of peasant force culminated with a fiery speech by Luc Guyau, the leader of the FNSEA mainstream farmers' union. When they meet in Edinburgh next week, "the European leaders must listen to us," he shouted above the din. "They must say no to fallow land and yes to Europe. Our combat is just. The road is long but victory will be ours. December 1 marks the end of the American monopoly of the world food market."

The demonstrators may all have been men of the land — only a half dozen women could be seen in a sea of ruddy-faced toilers — but their diversity was striking. At one extreme were the French "revolutionary guard", the battle-hardened veterans of many a campaign, from the Lille motorway to the Paris agriculture ministry. These troops, driven by bus from all corners of France, tangled with the riot police as they tried to stage a flanking action towards the parliament building and the American embassy. The injuries came after a tear-gas charge.

When they were not tearing up street signs and damaging cars, the bulk of the hardliners, thousands strong, spent their time shooting rockets and bird-scaring, explosive flares which are designed to

give cows the impression of incoming artillery. Favourite targets for these were women who opened balcony windows to watch the angry peasants go by. Several windows were broken.

This behaviour, mainly tolerated by police who are under government orders to humour the much-loved and hard-pressed peasants, did not amuse the small clump of Britons marching for the National Farmers' Union. "We are here as a question of solidarity," Martin Haworth, of the NFU, said. "We're disappointed by some of the behaviour we are seeing."

Next to the French in creativity came the young Italians, nearly 2,000 strong, who were shepherded by elegantly-dressed gentlemen farmers of the Coltivatori Diretti, the main union. Smarmily dressed, some played football with Coca-Cola cans while others waved at watching admirers. Most numerous among the foreigners were about 5,000 Germans who had crossed the Rhine to lend mainly peaceful support.

In this new ideological struggle, the organisers had joined forces with the other traditional enemy of EC protectionists, the Japanese.

Marching with his 12 representatives of the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives, Mitsukuru Horiuchi, the union president, said the American attempts to force open Japanese rice markets in the Gatt round amounted to a destabilising blow to society. Asked what he thought of French farmers' tactics, Mr Horiuchi remained diplomatic. "They are different, but when in Rome, do as the Romans."

Photograph, page 1



Call to action: "Advent — Germany is burning, and you all just watch!" says the graffiti allowed by Dortmund's youth office

Neo-Nazi 'admits' arson

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN BONN

TWO German right-wing extremists have been charged with murder in connection with the arson attack last week in the town of Mölln in which a Turkish woman and two children died.

Michael Peters, 25, the leader of a local extremist group, and Lars Christiansen, 19, allegedly threw petrol bombs into the homes of two Turkish families. Herr Peters then allegedly telephoned the fire service and announced the fire, adding: "Hell Hitler!"

According to the federal prosecutor's office, Herr Christiansen confessed yesterday after police confronted him with evidence. Eight other members of Herr Peters' group have been charged with

involvement in arson attacks. Meanwhile, two more right-wing extremists were charged yesterday with an attack on a home for asylum seekers in the western town of Winsen.

Peter Hintze, secretary-general of Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrat party, yesterday linked the need to combat right-wing extremism with the need to ratify the Maastricht treaty. He said: "Europe stands at a crossroads. It will be decided this decade which way Europe will go: forwards to co-operation in a European union or backwards into the conflicts of the 19th century."

The arrests in Mölln are a breakthrough for Alexander von Stahl, the federal prosecutor, who took over the case

from police. There have been numerous calls for the federal prosecutor to direct a general campaign against neo-Nazism, as happened in the struggle against left-wing terrorism in the 1970s and 80s.

Herta Daubler-Gmelin, deputy chairman of the opposition Social Democrats, called for an all-party committee similar to that set up then by Helmut Schmidt. Such a move appears possible, in view of the growing co-operation between the main parties.

Reinhard Göhner, deputy justice minister, suggested yesterday that pardons be granted to suspects who turned state witnesses, and his Christian Democrat party has called for electronic surveillance.

German parties agree Maastricht conditions

BY ANATOL LIEVEN

WHEN the Bundestag meets today to ratify the Maastricht treaty, it will also stipulate conditions designed to protect German sovereignty and interests. These are the product of the scepticism over European unity which has developed in Germany in recent months.

The agreement yesterday between the main political parties on these conditions ensures the treaty's ratification. The most important element will be an addition to the constitution stating that any transfer of German sovereignty must be agreed by a two-

thirds majority of both houses of parliament.

The government will be bound to consult the Bundestag before any new European legislation and to respect its views during negotiations. Parliament will also have a right of veto over entry into a single European currency.

The ruling Christian Democratic Union's spokesman on Europe, Peter Kittelmann, said that his party hoped that ratification would give a "clear impulse" for Britain and Denmark to follow suit.

Referendum hope, page 9

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Times

US task force nears Mogadishu

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON
AND MICHAEL BIVON

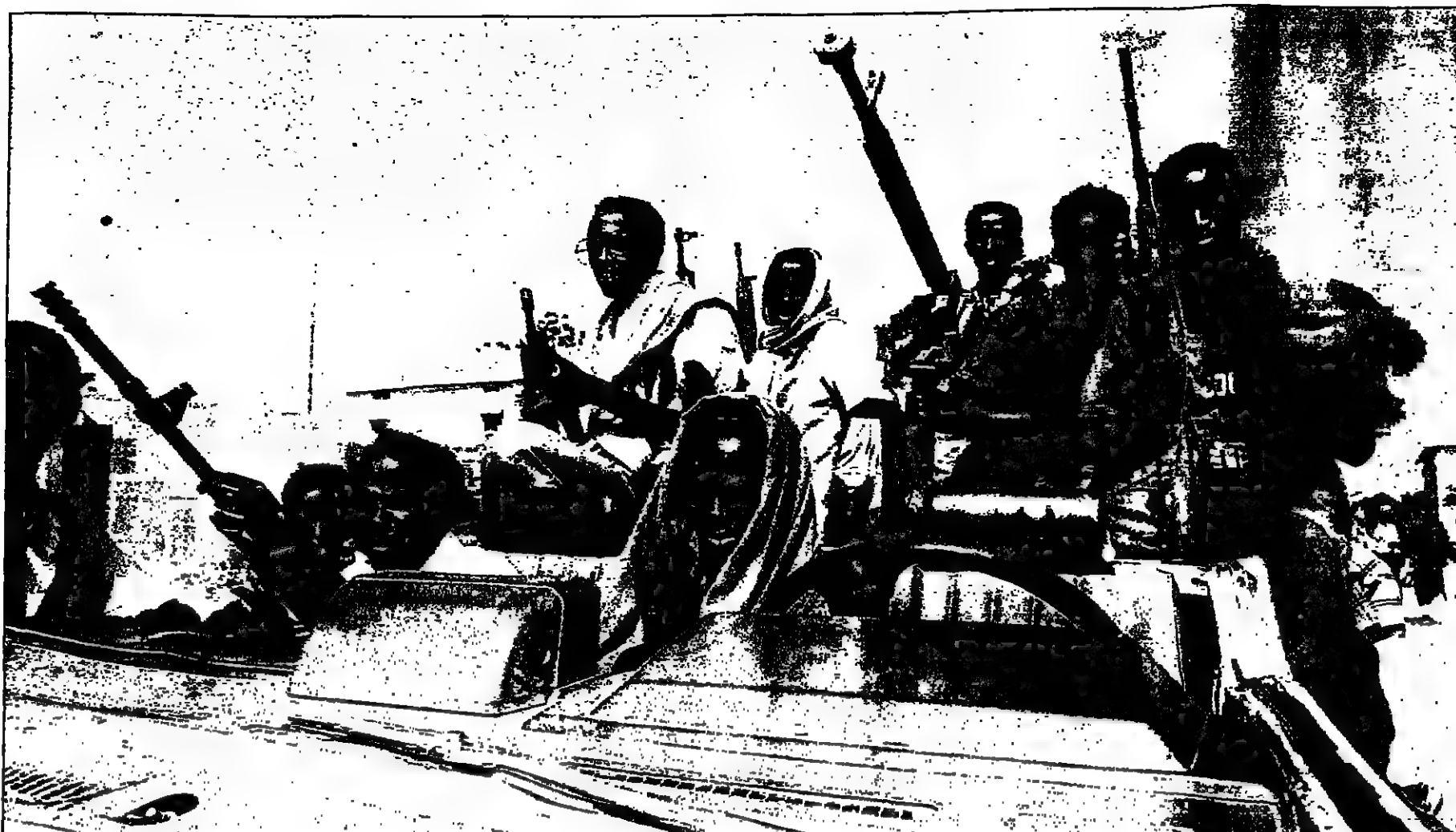
AN AMERICAN amphibious task force could be ready to put troops ashore in Mogadishu by tonight. The force led by the USS *Tripoli* and based in the Gulf region was approaching Somalia last night.

The force includes about 2,000 marines, tanks and attack and cargo helicopters. The likely scenario is that this force would make an amphibious landing to secure Mogadishu's port and airfield, and thereafter other American troops would establish up to half a dozen secure regional centres to receive and distribute humanitarian aid.

The United Nations Security Council last night was expected to authorise large-scale military intervention under US command, despite the preference of Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, for the world organisation to retain control of the international force. In their first reactions to Washington's offer of up to 30,000 American troops, most council members appeared ready to accept the American stipulation that its force should remain under US command.

The British government will begin urgent talks with Save the Children and other aid agencies to warn them that it intends to give strong support to the armed intervention in Somalia, and may offer logistic support from ships in the Indian Ocean.

Whitehall officials said they would urge any aid agencies still opposing intervention to think again. They said the attempt to negotiate with local warlords was not working, and 80 per cent of aid was not getting through. Aid agencies have expressed fears that the arrival of the troops would make aid workers a target for hostage-taking by Somali fighters. Britain backs the UN secretary-general, in his contention that only armed intervention, either by one country with UN backing, or under UN command, can now ensure the distribution of aid. But the



Rule of the gun: warring factions have disrupted international food aid to starving Somalis. Now the Americans are ready to send in their troops

government believes that in the absence of any government, the Americans and the international community may have to set up a framework administration in Somalia before peace-keepers can negotiate the withdrawal of forces.

Of the five permanent members of the 15-nation council, only China had reservations about the US plan, diplomats said. "There is only one option," said a council

delegate from a non-aligned country as consultations continued yesterday. African nations, who held their own meeting to consider the US proposal, also seemed ready to accept Washington's terms. "Our preference is a UN force," said Satezund Pethum, of Mauritius, the African group's chairman. "But we are pragmatic and realistic."

The Pentagon has asked Marine

General Joseph Hoar, Norman Schwarzkopf's successor as central command's commander-in-chief, to draw up a contingency action plan. It has asked other commanders around the world whose units are likely to be involved to specify their likely requirements. The State Department this week sent Robert Oakley, a former ambassador to Somalia, to neighbouring Ethiopia to meet Somali leaders and relief

officials and to prepare for the troops' arrival. It also asked Brandon Grove, a former US consul general in Jerusalem, to co-ordinate the Somali operation in Washington.

The administration has offered up to 30,000 troops, although most officials believe fewer than 20,000 will be required. However, the Pentagon does not share White House optimism that the operation

could be completed by January 20, enabling American troops to hand responsibility over to UN peacekeepers and withdraw before Bill Clinton, the president-elect, takes office. It believes that the operation, although militarily not too complex, could take six months or more. The Bush administration has kept Mr Clinton informed of its plan to use American ground troops.

Charities welcome military

BY JAMES LANDALE

CHARITIES cautiously welcomed plans for military intervention in Somalia yesterday but said that any initiative must come under United Nations supervision and with the co-operation of the warring factions.

Nicholas Hinton, the director-general of the Save the Children fund, said he welcomed the move but added: "Such an operation must be with the full commitment of the UN." He said that the UN should strive to achieve close co-operation with the Somali people on any initiative.

Mr Hinton was critical of reports suggesting that any military action could be over in two weeks and said a figure of five years was more realistic. "Tremendous reconstruction is needed and you cannot force time," he said.

The charity called on Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, to visit Somalia. "We believe this would focus the activities of the UN," Mr Hinton said.

In Mogadishu, the Somali capital, other relief workers welcomed the move. "It is clear to everybody that humanitarian aid is not sufficient and that it is imperative also to have a political solution," Catherine Cazaux, of the Red Cross, said. "We cannot continue working in such a perilous situation."

Oxfam also supported military intervention. "We think it likely that the figure of 30,000 troops suggested will be the number needed," a spokesman said.

Save the Children criticised the lack of co-ordination between UN agencies and other charities and said that the UN had not responded to a letter calling for a single UN agency to deal with Somalia.

Bullets fly on road of terror

FROM SAM KILEY IN MOGADISHU

ON LITTLE legs bloated like balloons, the Somali child stood swaying on the edge of the main road, a few hundred yards from the Mogadishu headquarters of the United Nations Children's Fund. Sucking on his thumb, he watched scores of rickety minibuses vie for road space with "technical" — the four-wheel drive vehicles mounted with heavy machineguns.

One of these trucks, a Toyota Land Cruiser with its top sliced off to make room for a 106mm howitzer and a half dozen heavily armed teenage gunmen, slowed slightly as it drew alongside the child. A thin arm appeared from the passenger window, cocked a small pistol, and fired.

The child's body remained upright for a few seconds before collapsing in the dust. The gunmen laughed hysterically as the vehicle drove off, in no particular hurry.

A few customers at a nearby tea stall cast a quick glance at the little body lying in a pool of blood, and resumed their conversation.

Horrific incidents like this and the relentless death toll from the famine in Somalia, which may reach a million by Christmas, have prompted President Bush and his advisers to offer the United Nations up to 30,000 troops to protect relief operations and restore order to the country. Washington's offer has caused near panic among some relief agencies who fear that their staff will become targets of Somali nationalism if armed foreign troops are dispatched to the Horn of Africa nation.

Some relief agency officials maintain that troops are not necessary. But more experienced workers in the field believe that if the world is serious about doing something for Somalia, then troops will be needed to protect food convoys that are being constantly looted.

But more importantly for Somalia, in the long run, is the need to break the protection rackets that Western charities, too, have to rely on to deliver emergency food supplies. The International Committee of the Red Cross has spent more than a third of its total world budget on Somalia in the last year. But every month it is estimated that \$50,000 (£33,000) goes on hiring armed youths as bodyguards and escorts for food, in the capital, Mogadishu, alone.

With the total destruction of the Somali economy, as a result of the civil war, the only form of employment is as a guard, soldier, or looter. Most young men, many of them aged 12, are involved in all three.

The result of the criminalisation of Somali society is not only that one kills children for fun and gets away with it but most of the religious and social structures, including familial relationships, have collapsed.

"If the US is going to send troops to Somalia then they are going to have to be prepared to a commitment well beyond six months. Once food aid can be delivered we will still have to find a way of restoring order, that means forming an impartial police force. That means setting up the basic models for civil society like religious organisations, women's groups, everything."

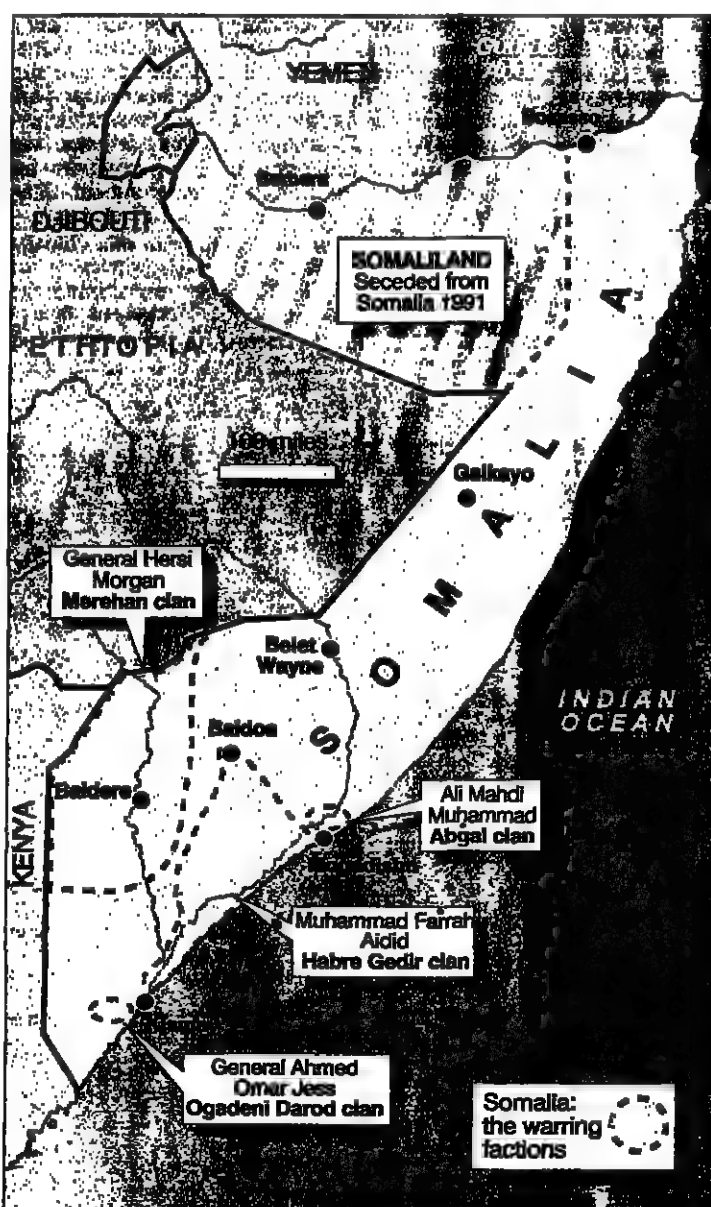
Somalia is like a giant mirror that has been shattered into a million pieces and some how the international community has to glue them back together. Ultimately that means a UN mandated territory. A humanitarian reconversion, a commitment for a decade. Is the world ready for that?" asked the head of an agency who has worked in Somalia for a year.

Somalia is unique in Africa and on the surface appears to be the only country with a natural claim to nationhood as it is alone in having just one tribe speaking one language (in dialects) and following one religion (Islam). So how could such a society collapse to the point at which the world feels an obligation to save it from itself?

The Somalis have an old explanation (which is also much heard among the Bedouin in the Middle East): "My country against the others, my clan against my country, my sub-clan against my clan, my family against my clan, my brothers against my family, me against my brothers."

The Somalis, predominantly nomadic pastoralists living on the edge of starvation for much of their lives, inevitably regard their relationship with the world as a battle for existence. They attach no great sentimentality to family or clan bonds but see their social system as a means of survival.

But to characterise the main



players on the Somali stage today as "warlords" is to do them unjust credit. They are now simply godfathers presiding over families running extortion and protection rackets using teenage gunmen high on khat, a narcotic plant, or looted Valium, morphine, slimming pills, pharmaceutical cocaine, and, lately, heroin. None have a coherent aim or set of policies other than the pursuit of power and of profit.

Japan pledged \$22.8 million in aid to Somalia through international organisations earlier this year. Foreign ministry officials said that the Tokyo government had decided to increase its aid because of the gravity of the refugee crisis in Africa.

The aid, which is being channelled through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, also includes \$1.5 million for relief and rehabilitation of refugees in Ethiopia, \$2.65 million for refugees from Mozambique and \$1.35 million for Liberian refugees. (AP)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Children die from disease

Nairobi: Famine and disease killed two-thirds of children under the age of five in Baidoa, Somalia's town of death, from April to November despite international relief efforts, an official report said. The survey, conducted last month by the United Nations Children's Fund and the United States Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, said that the most common cause of death of the weakened children was diarrhoea followed by measles. (Reuters)

Man held

Amsterdam: Police have arrested a Dutch youth who beat up a Somali refugee, saying he hated black people. The 31-year-old Somali was taken to hospital after the 19-year-old youth beat, kicked and held him captive in a train compartment for about 20 minutes, police said. The two were alone in the compartment. It was only when the Somali tried to escape that fellow-travellers raised the alarm. (Reuters)

HOW THE SOMALI WARLORDS LINE UP



MOHAMED SIAD BARRE

THE former president remains the principal protagonist in the Somali tragedy, although he is now orchestrating events from Nigeria where he fled earlier this year. A dictator who took power in a bloodless coup in 1969, Mr Siad Barre ruled at first with Soviet backing and in the mid-1980s with the help of the US through his Marehan clan, a sub-group of the Darod. His excesses against opponents have been more than matched by the atrocities his men committed as they retreated from rebels to their heartland in Gedo, west of the Juba river.

By butchering entire herds of camels, goats, whole villages, poisoning water supplies and blowing up wells, he is responsible for the syncretism of Baidoa and Baidere, towns he laid waste, with agony. Mr Siad Barre was driven from power by a joint assault from the north led by the Isak-dominated Somali National Movement and the Hawiye-dominated United Somali Congress, and from the south by the Somali Patriotic Front, an Ogadeni Darod group. Hiding in a Soviet-made tank he fled Mogadishu in January 1991.

After a long period in the wilderness his Marehan clansmen, under the command of his son-in-law, Mohamed Hersi Morgan, in the Somali National Front recently retook Baidere from part of the USC and are now pushing south to Kismayu along the Juba river.



MUHAMMAD FARRAH AIDID

THE recent success of the Marehan has undermined the position of General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, leader of the Habre Gedir faction of the United Somali Congress. General Aidid split with Ali Mahdi Muhammad, the other main USC leader, soon after the rebels took Mogadishu from President Barre in July last year, when a small group declared Mr Ali Mahdi interim president. Fierce fighting broke out between the two factions in September 1991, and again in November. The battles, which destroyed most of central Mogadishu, had divided the city by the time the UN brokered a ceasefire in March. Mr Ali Mahdi took control of the Karan suburb and General Aidid the rest, except the port and airport. Until recently, the Habre Gedir were considered the most powerful group in central and southern Somalia, the areas worst affected by the famine.

While General Aidid, a rangy man in his sixties with shifty, distrustful eyes, ran the military campaigns, Osman Hassan Ali "Arto" produced the wealth. His main interests lie in a monopoly on the importation of fuel through Kismayu and the supply of khat, a narcotic plant, flown in 16 light aircraft to Mogadishu and earns \$128,000 a day for the Habre Gedir. Mr Arto has also landed a European Community contract to deliver fuel to Mogadishu's water pumping stations.



ALI MAHDI MUHAMMAD

A FORMER hotelier, Ali Mahdi Muhammad, has two main assets: a satellite telephone which he uses to call the BBC, and the glib tongue of a service industry professional. A short and affable character, he has managed to stay in the Somalia story largely through his skill at appearing to be more sinners against than sinning.

His forces control only Karan in the north of Mogadishu and are financed by eight khat planes (carrying \$64,000 worth of the bitter privet-like twigs from Kenya) and the standard protection racket with armed guards.

Earlier this year he managed to persuade De la Rue, the British currency printing firm, to sell him several tons of new Somali banknotes printed during the Barre regime ahead of a planned devaluation. These are in circulation in Karan only and were flown in illegally by a Russian air charter company in an aircraft flying the UN flag.

Mr Ali Mahdi styles himself interim president. The Ogadeni Darod have proved to be a wild card in the Somali anarchy and have fought both with and against General Aidid and Mr Ali Mahdi. Led by the formidable military commander General Ahmed Omar Jess, they have a firm foothold in Kismayu and vie for control of this critical port with the Habre Gedir, Marehan, and others.

Aid plan may lead to new protectorate

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations plan for huge military intervention in Somalia to ensure the delivery of aid could result in the strife-torn country being turned in effect into a UN protectorate.

Even before the security council agrees on the dispatch of a multinational force of up to 30,000 troops, diplomats are discussing the possibility of establishing a UN-supervised government in Somalia. "Somalia has no government now," said a senior American official. "It needs some kind of structure. You may need a UN protectorate, which the United Nations would manage and then try to turn back into a state."

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, has said that even large-scale UN military intervention will need to be accompanied by a longer-term plan for

Somalia. "It is important that further measures to protect humanitarian relief supplies should be accompanied by continuing efforts to promote national reconciliation," he wrote in a letter to the security council this week.

Some diplomats are even talking about reviving the Trusteeship Council — an idea that appeals many developing countries. The Trusteeship Council was set up in 1945 to supervise the administration of territories that had been held under League of Nations mandates set up at the end of the first world war, or confiscated from the defeated powers at the end of the second world war. The administering power of each territory undertook to report to the UN and to promote self-government and independence for these lands.

All but one of the original 11

Trust Territories — Palau — have now become independent or merged with neighbouring states. The Trusteeship Council now meets only once a year and will be wound up as soon as Palau becomes fully independent.

Given the widespread reservations about reviving the Trusteeship Council in a new form, most diplomats believe an arrangement similar to the UN peace plan for Cambodia is more likely. In Cambodia, the UN formed a Supreme National Council with members of the four warring factions and entrusted it with ruling the country under UN supervision until UN-monitored elections next year. "We will have to end up with something like what happened in Cambodia," said one Western diplomat working on Somalia. "Call it a receivership for bankruptcy."

The Palace, the press and the people. Part two: truth, fiction and the tabloids

Putting a foot in the Palace door



In part two of his series, Michael Shea (above), former press secretary to the Queen, questions the wisdom of royal openness

For the past few years I have worked in an office that, coincidentally, overlooks Buckingham Palace Gardens as my old one did, the difference being that I am now on the other side of the wall. Being a former insider now on the outside, gives me, perhaps an untypical and entirely personal view of recent events. After all, the old maxim applies particularly to information about the royal family: those who speak don't know; those who know don't speak.

When reading in the press since my departure in 1987 (and one joy of not being at the Palace is not having to read the tabloids) that a confidante/courtier/aide or whoever, has revealed or said this or that, I know that invention was in the air. When a story began in this way, the tabloid newroom line, I knew from experience, was probably either that it was "too good to check" (ie why spoil a good story by inviting a denial) or, if they were short of a front page lead, "well, why not dream up something new on the royals. No one will seriously complain..."

The profession of journalism was once thought of as being both uniform and coherent. It never has been. But something new has developed over the years since I left the Palace, carried on the back of the lamentable truth that, as standards drop, circulation figures rise. This has been coupled with an approach which increasingly illustrates what Oscar Wilde once said, "In old days men had the rack. Now they have the press." The press has also become not only the detective on the "Insight" model, but also judge, jury and executioner, and there is no right of appeal.

There is now even more of a yawning split in the media, a schism, between those who write for publications that seek to inform (and one can be informative and entertaining at the same time) and



In the spotlight: the constant glare of publicity has made life ever more difficult for the royal family. Has greater access only increased the demands of the tabloid press?

those (presumably, the "unpopular" versus the "popular" press) who produce matter so devoid of balance or scruple or truth that surely even they cannot believe it. Lord Hartwell, some years ago in a vaudeville article in *The Daily Telegraph*, divided the print media into "the qualities which try to explain as well as inform... the populars which exploit scandals; and the tabloids which invent them". I would go further and say that at the bottom end of the market it's not so much that truth is replaced by fiction, but that the two are now indistinguishable, so much so that when I was assured over the summer that there was some truth in what was being reported about the marriages of members of the royal family, I found it almost impossible to believe.

From my new vantage point,

unhindered by having to react to each royal story as it broke, I saw more clearly how much harm was being done to the institution by the sheer degree of intrusion to which the Queen and her family were being subjected.

I cannot believe that there are any readers of this article whose lives, or families, or work, or mental state, would not be grievously affected by the sort of constant Peeping-Tom scrutiny of every slightest movement or mishap, real or imagined. Where would our marriages be, our children's or our parents' happiness, if we had to face a world that was seeing us and our problems laid bare on television and being speculated about with varying degrees of Schadenfreude in the press?

I have seen, in addition, the

Queen's enormously successful state visits to France and Germany this year, with the huge and enthusiastic reception that she was accorded. They must have done great good to relations between the various countries concerned, yet they were belittled, even in some broadsheets, by the reporting of tiny, insignificant incidents, taken out of all proportion, such as a handful of skinhead neo-Nazis shouting, in typical cowardice, behind the large crowd when Her Majesty visited Dresden. A small example, but one of all too many. After all the hard work and dedication that goes into these visits, I know how bitterly disappointing such throwaway coverage is, not just as regards overseas coverage but also here in the UK where so much effort goes into royal visits to the regions.

I have seen too and deplored, the constant misuse of the term "public interest" to justify the most arrant intrusion of privacy. It is not "public interest", but "the public's interest", that has been catered to. We have seen people in public life have their happiness destroyed for some base gratification. Of course we are all susceptible to gossip, and most of us bear the misfortunes of others with equanimity, if not suppressed delight. But the media play too much at pretending that they are promoting, out of duty, the national interest, while most of the time, the tabloids (some Sunday broadsheets have a tabloid-tying-together-out-mode) are merely pandering to the latter. And, of course, to their sales figures.

We have seen, over these past few years, the media destroying so much. Of course its constant refrain

is that if you can't stand the heat, keep out of the public eye. The other recently more justifiable refrain is, how can there be a totally private royal family when it is such a public institution? What is more, runs the argument, they have brought the problems upon themselves with all their self-generated television exposés of their private lives. By that is meant such events as *Elizabeth R*, the outstanding BBC television programme about Her Majesty earlier in the year or, more unfortunately, the somewhat ingratiating ITV documentary, *In Private* — *In Public*, broadcast in 1986 about the Prince and Princess of Wales which showed much of the very private lives which the Palace had theretofore gone to considerable lengths to prevent being exposed.

I have given considerable

thought, from my new private-sector side of the Palace wall, to how much the run of special programmes about the monarchy, how the glimpses of private life afforded us on the fringes of the Queen's Christmas broadcasts, how members of the royal family appearing on *Wogan* and games shows, have made a significant contribution to the recent wounding of the royal family. I myself had urged more of such openness when I was there. Did it only serve to increase the demand of the tabloids for more and more and more? Perhaps. But it had to be. There could be no continuance, in the long term, of a policy of no reveal.

With the great wisdom that hindsight always gives, there is force in some of the above criticisms. The intention was always to be helpful and forthcoming to all

concerned. Good intentions don't always bring success, though *Elizabeth R* was by far the best and most constructive documentary of its type, showing how the Queen, now among the world's most long-serving heads of state, has reigned with wisdom, with compassion, with dedication, whatever the vicissitudes of life around her.

The Palace has always recognised the important role of the media in a free society, so that the public duties of the Queen and the royal family can be better covered and understood. But who can tolerate, whatever the personal and marital unhappinesses, the recent disastrous resort to electronic eavesdropping and telephoto cameras lenses? Do we really want to continue down the road to a hideous world where, not just the royal family but anyone who gets into the golden bowl of public life, can have their slightest move from the conventional path intruded on and then paraded as if on a gallows before its slaving public?

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In the final part of his series, Michael Shea considers broken marriages, public interest and private tragedy

Poser in private practice

How can women know their gynaecologists are as competent as they seem?

The royal family was advised not to be involved with either Dr Thomas Courtney or his AIDS-related charity. In a recommendation which, it was reported, was couched in simple terms, they were told "not to touch him with a barge pole".

The royal family is fortunate to have access to such plain-speaking advisers, and to sources not available to the general public. But how can the ordinary patient be certain that the smooth-talking, assured, 6ft-tall intimidating specialist (all these adjectives have been applied to Dr Courtney), with a good address in Harley Street, will give a good opinion which will be clinically sound and worth the expense of a fat fee?

Dr Courtney has never been associated with any teaching hospital in a senior role. He has no higher qualifications. He has spent time in Saudi Arabia, had done junior hospital appointments but never been more than a junior registrar. His most prestigious post had perhaps been as a fixed-term research fellow at the Royal Free Hospital medical school in north London.

After he left this appointment, concern was expressed that he was representing himself as a consultant, and a complaint was made to the General Medical Council.

Dr Courtney denied the charge and issued the denial in a medical magazine, but the general public does not have the opportunity to read specialist periodicals, and presumably his practice continued to grow by word of mouth.

Gynaecology is one of the specialties which has obvious attractions for any doctor with suspect inten-



Charming and plausible: Dr Thomas Courtney

tions; others are tempted to become experts in psycho-sexual medicine, allergies and slimming. It is a particular pity that gynaecology should be tainted in this way as there is an extremely active Royal College which sets very exacting standards of training and examination in obstetrics and gynaecology. Whereas doctors tend to view a visit to the gynaecologist in the same way as one to a dermatologist, surgeon or endocrinologist, an essential chore which is recommended only when a specific problem needs solving, many women see it in quite a different light.

It seems that in some circles there is a social cachet in "having a gynaecologist", and they treat their gynaecologist in the American way: as a friend and a medical adviser on a wide variety of women's problems who can be visited annually for a smear, a gynaecological examination, breast palpation and a chat about the difficulties of life.

A surprising number of women who pay regular visits to a gynaecologist are not initially referred to him or her by another doctor whether GP, company doctor or even a medical friend or relative. It is true that they were recommended, but the recommendation was as likely to have come from a close friend, dinner party companion or even the hairdresser, all admirably qualified to determine the specialist's charm but not clinical skills.

A few years ago there was a "gynaecologist" in central London who had a huge practice, his waiting room, packed as it was with famous names was a celebrity collector's heaven.

A woman journalist went to see him complaining of a heavy discharge. When she failed to improve after months of treatment she

braved the National Health Service. When her cervix was examined after surgery it had malignant change in four separate sites and the growth was already beginning to extend. The medical directory revealed that the "gynaecologist" although respected by patients, and liked by medical colleagues, had a rather less impressive curriculum vitae than Dr Courtney, but he was charming, attentive, and of impeccable morals.

A specialist who starts a consultant practice should have served the many years of apprenticeship demanded by the Royal Colleges and should have at least been a senior registrar in a teaching hospital, or a consultant in the NHS.

This will determine that he has had adequate medical training, but it requires inside knowledge, which a good GP should have, to know whether the skills which should have developed as the surgeon grows older have done justice to the earlier groundwork. The GP should also know whether the specialist's manner is kindly and concerned, for without empathy with the patient the consultation, particularly in gynaecology, is a waste of time.

The ordinary patient does not have the chance to chat with the royal family's medical advisers, but they too have a GP, and they would be well advised to consult him before they venture into specialist medicine.

Women should not think that by selecting a female gynaecologist they will necessarily solve their problems. A Dutch survey reported in the *British Medical Journal* in June of this year, suggests that 27 per cent of female gynaecologists questioned admitted to having been sexually attracted to one or more of their female patients. It is assumed that their professionalism triumphed, that they controlled their feelings and did not hand out the champagne.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD



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THE SHOP FOR ALL TIME

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The stuff of dreams: the make-up team, the most popular draw at the Clothes Show Live event, transforms a viewer. The number of visitors to this year's event is likely to top 200,000

The short but sharp *Clothes Show* is compulsive viewing, says Joseph Connolly

Jeff Banks — what a great bloke, what a winner! He's a real survivor is good old Jeff — Jeff the Lad! You hear a lot of this sort of thing about the originator and presenter of *The Clothes Show* — the BBC's ratings-grabbing rag trade slot, broadcast to an audience of up to 11 million on Sunday afternoons just before God, in Mr Banks' own words, "can get a look in".

This short but fatally addictive programme, now five years old, increases its ratings and its influence with every 26-week run, while the annual Lloyds Bank-sponsored *Clothes Show Live* event returns to London next week for its biggest-ever six-day bash, cooking a snack at any talk of recession. More than 250 exhibitors, ranging from Joseph, Bella Freud and John Richmond at one end of the fashion spectrum to high street heavyweights Marks & Spencer, Next and Hennes at the other, will be vying for attention.

Dozens of glittering stunts and spectacles are promised, with *The Clothes Show* broadcasting live alongside Radio 1, and the make-up team (always the most popular draw) offering to transform the passing wannabe into not only vamp of the month, but any idol of their dreams — Madonna, Michael Jackson, Trevor McDonald, you name it. Despite the £7.50 minimum price of a ticket, the organisers are confident of at least 200,000 visitors.

How did the half-hour television programme that spawned such lucrative shenanigans come about? Mr Banks explains: "It was around 12 years ago — I had just won the Designer of the Year award, and I was making a speech that I was assured was not going to be broad-

cast; you know how it is when you're among friends — you don't mind too much making a prat of yourself. Anyway, the speech did go out, and someone at the BBC liked it. They were looking for an item for lunch-time audiences, and so I did a ten-minute weekly clothes slot (*on Pebble Mill at One*) for over two years."

Following these ten minute forays, Mr Banks got together with Roger Cassie, a BBC producer (now the executive producer of *The Clothes Show*), and made a pilot for a full-length programme; this was entirely ignored. Mr Banks pursued other ventures, while harassing Michael Grade (then the controller of BBC1) on a regular basis. After about four years Mr Grade asked Mr Banks to prepare 11 programmes in seven weeks because, says Mr Banks, "he had said all to put on in the daytime". Mr Banks delivered the secret weapon of Selina Scott as his

co-presenter. She stayed until this year — does Mr Banks miss her? "She was really good, Selina. Excellent. She has a sort of sultry sexiness that is hard to beat — so in common with every other red-blooded male, I miss her, yes." His current co-presenter Caryn Franklin, has been with the programme since the second series. "She used to be fashion editor of *ID* magazine," Mr Banks says. "She has a sort of seat-gripping ring to her voice — I just love her leftist, radical angularity."



Presenters: Franklin and Banks

'Caryn used to be a fashion editor. She has a sort of seat-gripping ring to her voice — I just love her leftist, radical angularity'

He says he always knew what he wanted the programme to be (hence its decidedly unambiguous title, eschewing all mention of fashion as well as any punning around with words like "gear"). "A magazine programme — a weekly glossy column, if you like. In the early days it was too straight — we maybe angled it too much towards the fashion cognoscenti. Now it is aimed directly at people: any people — all people."

The editor of the monthly *Clothes Show* magazine, Karen McCartney, must necessarily cast her net in shallower waters: with a steady circulation of 194,000, her target is women between the ages of 18 and 26, and she tries to feature clothes they could be expected to buy — "affordable chic", she calls it. Mr Banks doesn't agree on this score, much to the chagrin of the BBC1 controller, Jonathan Powell. "We argue about this a lot — even if some

wonderful thing costs a fortune. I think people would be interested to see it, people can't afford Hockney, but they like to see them. Jonathan thinks it should all be budget conscious, but then, he's a BBC man, and I'm not."

Balance is the object of every *Clothes Show*, and normally it is extraordinarily good: a typical mix might contain street fashion, a bit of glamour, a flash of uniform, news of a competition, a top name hairdresser, a couple of bespoke tailors and maybe a glimpse of underwear (35 per cent of the audience is male, and Mr Banks ruefully acknowledges the pulling power of the lingerie clips, along with Ms Scott's erstwhile leg).

Is Mr Banks, who designs and markets several ranges of clothes, ever accused of bias? "None of my designs or companies has featured; I insist on that." How about excluding a rival? "It couldn't be done: we have eight researchers and an editorial board of ten — all very democratic."

And what of taste? "We recently considered an item on transvestite clothing, but it's not great at tea-time on a Sunday, is it? It would be OK if we went out later: same with S&M bondage gear. Mind you, we might look at that next year because it's creeping into mainstream fashion."

Mr Banks is planning a new mid-summer event and he would like to take the *Live* show to any country you can name. "It's a fun world, fashion, despite everything. Risky, cut throat, but always fun: I like a bit of fun."

● *Clothes Show Live* is at Earls Court Exhibition Centre, London, December 10 to 15 inclusive, 9.00am to 7.00pm daily. Exhibition admission £7.50 or £15 to include fashion show. Concessions for GAFs and children.

Gems in a golden career

David Hicks has turned his attention to jewellery design

Every time David Hicks attends a dinner party and is seated next to one of what he refers to as "those sort of upper class divorced ladies", invariably she will turn to him and say, "I bet you'll never guess what I do", and he will snap back, "I'm sure I know exactly what you do — you're a so-called bloody interior decorator."

For Mr Hicks — Britain's foremost postwar designer not only of interiors, but of gardens, furniture and all manner of accessories — does not at all care to be associated with those whose passion is for circular tables smothered with cloths and windows swagged like a plush old Odessa.

The collection came about as a result of a lunch at which Mr Hicks's wife, Lady Pamela (a daughter of Earl Mountbatten of Burma), was wearing a striking brooch — Mr Hicks's very first jewellery design — which caught the eye of John Lloyd Morgan, the managing director of the Bond Street



King's ransom: stones in David Hicks's collection include jadeite, chrysoprase, sapphire and emerald jeweller, Chaumet. "The result is this," Mr Hicks says, spreading his hands across a table full of large, chunky brooches, rings and cufflinks, each one alive with a fascinating array of semi-precious stones, set very simply in gold.

Although each piece demonstrates an easy mastery, this collection owes nothing to Mr Hicks's trademark symmetry and geometry: here we have defiantly organic creations whose final outline is determined by the size and shape of each stone, and by the eye of

the artist. Certainly, Mr Hicks has brought to bear his legendary insistence upon perfection (the settings, executed in the Chaumet workshops, are flawless) and he speaks of each stone with enthusiasm. "This one," he says, pointing to a semi-rugged chunk of purple

stone, surrounded by creamy smooth turquoise, opals and tourmaline, "is called agulite — I discovered it in Natal: it is completely unknown in this country". There is also a massive bracelet clustered with amethyst, tourmaline, opal, rhodo-

chrosite, rose quartz and corne- lian, and a showstopping necklace with strands of turquoise and chrysocolla brilliantly set off a great big slab of blue topaz.

Prices range from £1,000 to more than £10,000. "Far too cheap," Mr Hicks says. He is given to provocative statements ("I don't care about people, I care about things", for example, or "I like my clients to be either very intelligent or totally stupid"). What he means about the prices is that the big spenders from the Middle East would not be interested unless the pieces were studded with rubies, emeralds and the rest — a possibility for the next time, Mr Hicks says.

Until then, there are the interiors of a new house in Surrey to be considered (designed by his son, Ashley, an architect) and a range of plastic garden furniture ("I have the colour in mind — it is a colour never before used in gardens") as well as a book (his tenth) called *My Kind of Garden*. "I like to do different things — stained-glass windows for churches will be next — to commemorate all one's friends who keep popping off. I do what I like, really. I am completely my own man."

J.C.

● An exhibition of David Hicks's jewellery runs until December 24 at Chaumet, 178 New Bond Street, London, W1.

Shop till you're shabby

Some friends of ours who live in uptown Manhattan have just taken delivery of a new sofa, armchair and ottoman. Caroline, who is English, is thrilled. "The fabric is all faded and badly-fining. It looks as if it has been in the family for 100 years," she says. "The chair is so huge it can fit two people. Once you have got on, it is hard to get off. But Mum is going to take one look and say, 'You paid for that!'"

Caroline's acquisitions are from Shabby Chic, a California company that makes the ultimate furniture for these anxious times — vast, soft pieces that sit you on their laps, cuddle you in their enveloping arms and soothe away horrid 1992. No matter that the whole thing might seem a touch anomalous in a modern flat half-way up a skyscraper: New Yorkers must take their comfort as they can.

I think we had better watch out for shabby chic, because it is getting everywhere — and it is ours. After all, nobody in the Western world is shabbier than the British. If only we knew how to market it, our talent for shabbiness could be a huge national export. Shabby Chic, the Californian store, is the perfect example, as it turns out to be the brainchild of a British designer, Rachel Ashwell.

Shabby chic is taking hold in fashion, as well, and the British are acknowledged as the best at it. Witness the careers of the fashion editors Lucinda Chambers and Debbi Mason, who were founding members of British *Elle* ten years ago. Both became fabulous within their own circles for sitting in the front row of fashion shows wearing second-hand clothes.

During the late 1980s, with sharp-as-a-knife modern tailoring on the run, ways it would be fair to say their respective stars were not in the ascendancy. They bided their time, had babies and went freelance. But in the past couple of months Ms Chambers has been promoted to the fashion director of British *Vogue*, and Ms Mason has been called to New York, where she is about to take up the fashion directorship of *Mademoiselle* magazine.

Fashion designers are on to the growing lure of the old and the shabby, too. Ralph Lauren's show in New York last month was easily one of the most wearable and appealing collections of the season — but the elements, 1930s dresses, ruffled blouses and silky print scarves, looked as if they had been culled from antique shops. Since it is well known in the trade that Mr Lauren routinely trawls the United Kingdom for beautiful old clothes to adapt for his collections, I became inspired by the conviction that I could do it myself.

So, last week, I went in search of shabby chic — the lifestyle. I trailed round London and back to my roots in Bath, a city that was shabby in the 1970s, became smart in the 1980s and is reverting to shabby type in the 1990s, much like me. In London, I discovered a shop on New King's Road actually called Shabby Chic. No relation to the US version, it uses ecologically sustainable woods and recycled fabrics — but it was not shabby enough by a long chalk. I wanted worn, I wanted faded, I wanted better up, or so I thought.

In Bath, I had to face facts. To be shabby chic properly, you need skills and resources I do not possess. You need unlimited time to tramp around. Then, you must be clever with your hands to turn this old ruck, which is the wrong shape and the wrong length but in a lovely fabric, or that old, chipped, three-legged cupboard into things over which your friends will marvel their eyes and his with envy. Thirdly, you must have it in you to haggle £12.50 down to £12. I do not.

Next season, I have to admit, I will be one of those fools who will be out buying pre-selected, carefully redesigned old/ethnic shabby chic in expensive stores. My comfort is that I am sure that I will be doing it in the company of many others who share the 1990s taste for shabby values grafted on to an unreconstructed 1980s lust for instant shopping gratification.

Much as I regret it, I have neither the stomach nor the nose for doing it the other way. Definitely not the nose, anyway. After my weekend among piles of old fabric in Bath, I have not stopped sneezing yet.

SARAH MOWER

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Bryan Appleyard

In a political tight spot? Have a wide-ranging far-reaching, no-stone-turned enquiry

The strange tale of flexible friends, cigarettes, champagne and wild, wild women in Paddington, Notting Hill or wherever has now generated three "enquiries". Thresher, we are told, conducted an internal enquiry into the Bricout and Raffles outrage at the Praed Street branch and quickly announced that John Onanuga and David Newton had made up the story on the spur of the moment. Meanwhile, the Home Office is "enquiring" into the ease with which confidential banking information can be bought and the National Audit Office is "enquiring" into the use of public money to pay Norman Lamont's legal costs in the awesome Miss Whiplash affair.

Oh, and in case you missed it, Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, has launched an "enquiry" into who painted a Hitler moustache on a portrait of Lady Thatcher. It will, we trust, be wide-ranging, far-reaching and no-stone-turned-leaving. On a possibly slightly higher level of significance the government is waiting for the results of the coal enquiry that emerged from the attempted pit closures and for Lord Justice Scott's enquiry into the covert arming of Saddam Hussein.

But what, exactly, is an enquiry? Most obviously it is a way of buying time. Once an enquiry is announced, the whole issue becomes effectively, if not technically, *sub judice*. Everybody can hide behind the reassuring certainty that an enquiry is in progress.

This, of course, presupposes the intrinsic virtue of the enquiry idea. We can be reassured by the mere existence of an official enquiry that cool objectivity and rationality are being applied to the source of our suspicions and fears. And, once the results are officially announced, we can go on to feel purged by a sense of completion, by the closure of a file.

Unfortunately none of this works because the enquiry currency has been thoroughly debased. In part this may be because of paranoia. The Warren Commission's report on the assassination of President Kennedy inspired a thousand conspiracy theories, primarily because people wanted to believe the truth was more exciting, more organised than Warren made it sound. Warren may well have been right and complete, but the authority of modern government is too enfeebled for any institution to be capable of insisting on its own version of the truth.

"There will be no whitewash at the White House," said Richard Nixon at the height of Watergate, a remark that blithely aspired to overlook the perfectly clear public awareness that whitewashing was precisely what large numbers of the White House staff were paid to do.

But it is in this country that the word has been most thoroughly debased.

Remember Sir Robert (now Lord) Armstrong's enquiry into the leak intended to damage Michael Heseltine during the Westland affair in 1985. Sir Robert found nothing particularly wrong. Was he right? It does not matter, for Sir Robert's role was simply to protect the system, whatever its ethical posture.

So impressed was Mrs Thatcher by this that she sent Sir Robert to Australia in pursuit of the *Spycatcher* affair, but there he looked foolish.

But the official assumption is important. It is based on the belief that there is something in the system more valuable than the exposure of truth or the workings of justice. This undermines all enquiries.

And they are further undermined by another belief, revealed by the numerous enquiries whose results are incompletely published. This is that the public is not qualified, competent or trustworthy enough to be told the whole truth. We simply have to accept that, in the secrecy of their workings, great minds are protecting us, that there will be no whitewash at the White House.

Both beliefs relativise the meaning of the word enquiry. And yet the word still has this quasi-legal connotation of absolute objectivity and justice. So governments still invoke enquiries. Indeed, they do so ever more compulsively as their own position weakens and as meaning drains from the word.

We should not judge too harshly the record of Channel Islanders during the war, says Daniel Johnson

The collaborator in us all

If the Nazis had invaded Britain, a great many of us would have collaborated. Nobody should feel too smug about those who actually did, in the one part of the British Isles where the myth of "we shall never surrender" was put to the test. The picture which emerges from the German occupation of the Channel Islands, many files on which were released yesterday by the Public Record Office, is not a flattering one. Half a century later, many documents are still kept secret "for reasons of personal sensitivity". Those who enquire too deeply into what happened on the islands are still often met by a resistance stiffer than anything the Germans encountered.

Even before the Germans arrived at the end of June 1940, the Guernsey authorities are alleged to have given their own population priority over the civilians on Alderney. During the next five years — when Alderney was turned into a slave labour colony run by the SS and the Todt Organisation — the civilian administrations on Jer-

sey and Guernsey chose discretion rather than valour. "May this occupation be a model to the world," wrote Guernsey's Attorney-General Ambrose Sherwill at the time.

In a way, it was. *The German Occupation of Jersey*, a detailed diary kept by L.P. Sinel, a journalist on the *Evening Post*, chronicles the daily privations of the civilians and the many small ways in which the Bailiff, Alexander Coutanche (later to be knighted), and the Superior Council of the States of Jersey were able to ameliorate their misery.

There is no doubt that the Germans treated obedient Channel Islanders more kindly than civilians elsewhere in Europe. Indeed the newly released files suggest that Germans liked to be billeted in Jersey and Guernsey.

When 1,186 deportations

took place in September 1942 (some of these people were destined for concentration camps on the continent and never returned), "the Superior Council considered resigning as a protest, but fortunately wiser counsel prevailed". The surviving deportees, who have never received a penny of compensation from either the German or British governments, might not have agreed with this wiser counsel.

The island authorities supplied the Germans with all the information they required, most notoriously on the identification of Jews. Only one member of Guernsey's Controlling Committee voted against the Nazi anti-Jewish measures. The authorities helped to enforce these and other pernicious orders. They possessed an ultimate sanction: the selection of individuals for deportation was an

invidious business in which the administrators may not have been blameless. Little seems to have been attempted (except by brave individuals) on behalf of the thousands of slave workers, many of whom were starving to death. Even in the last days, there was no official encouragement of passive resistance, let alone acts of sabotage.

Such sins of commission and omission were not necessarily collaboration in the commonly accepted sense. That word has been reserved for those who became informers, or who had close relationships with German soldiers, or who profited from the state of siege by making fortunes on the black market. These people were more numerous than the islanders liked to admit, but it would be wrong to suppose that a sharp demarca-

tion existed between them and the rest of the population.

It is not too late to ask who was guilty of what, especially in regard to the Alderney camps (about which some islanders knew a good deal). More interesting is the question of what the experiences of these close-knit communities tell us about how collaboration would have operated on the British mainland if Hitler had invaded successfully. During the war, William Joyce ("Lord Haw Haw") was a joke. When it was over, he was hanged as a traitor after a dubious three-day trial, under a law (the Treason Act 1945) which was only passed after his arrest. Why? He was no longer a threat, if he had ever been one; he had indeed become a pathetic figure, still giving the Nazi salute as he was led from the dock. The awkward fact that Joyce was executed as a scape-

goat is, however, explained by an even more unpalatable truth. The authorities knew that under a German occupation there might have been many more Joyces than heroes of the resistance. His version of National Socialism, as expounded in his book *Twilight over England*, seems laughable today. But short of his lunatic and Semitic conspiracy theories, there is a good deal in it that could have appealed to the workers who voted so decisively for Atlee's Labour party in 1945.

No, the British were not immune to the power to which half Europe succumbed. The proof is contained in the mouldering files on the burghers of Jersey and Guernsey. At the outset of the occupation a German officer asked the Dame of Sark, Mrs Sybil Hathaway: "You are not afraid?" Keeping her cool, she replied in excellent German: "Is there any need to be afraid of German officers?" It was a question to which many Britons might have given an ambiguous response.

An outbreak of silliness diverts ministers from their real tasks

Symptoms of a detached retina include "spots" before the eyes, flashing lights and a shadow over the eye with progressive loss of vision. The eye cannot focus. Images pile on each other. Nothing seems quite real.

Thus British politics at present. Ask history what vexed the government at the close of 1992 and it will have no problem: how to end recession, what to do with Europe, what role in a new world order. Ask

SIMON JENKINS

what vexed Britain's governors and the vision fills with spots, flashes and dark shadows, with sex therapists and royal phone tappers, with fantasist wine salesmen and adulterers in Chelsea strip. Her Majesty's Treasury briefs the press on Thresher's off-licence invoice policy. The Comptroller and Auditor General is summoned from his Olympus to ponder £4,700 (and VAT) spent on the Chancellor's wild weekend of "press advice".

C.V. Wedgwood once wrote of the British zeal to debunk politicians: "Suspicion of power and suspicion of motive are valuable if held in control, but can paralyse all human action if they themselves take control." Certainly personalities and policies, have always been the warp and weft of politics. Yet what here really matters? Politics seems to be reacting against a summer of Maastricht tedium. It has become intoxicated on a late flowering of silliness. Yesterday Tory MPs authoritatively claimed that there is now a "concerted campaign against the Chancellor of the Exchequer from persons unnamed". Norman Lamont's series of mishaps are too coincidental to be fortuitous. There is a plot. The predators have tasted the blood of one cabinet minister, David Mellor, and now want more. I have always thought a concerted press campaign to be a contradiction in terms. Frantic rivalry, not conspiracy is the custom and practice of the press. The whips conspire. Civil servants (including drivers) conspire. The police and MI5 conspire. They all talk to journalists and no minister is ever safe from



them. The press merely adds its own magic ingredient, cruelty. The press personifies the nation's desire to see the mighty taken down a peg. It loves to kick a man when he is down. In doing so it competes, but does not conspire.

I noticed that fell phrase appearing in "lobby copy" this week, that Tory MPs do not want Mr Lamont to be forced into resignation at present, but "wondered how long he could resist the pressure". Pressure

from where? Ministers are answerable for their jobs to the prime minister and for their reputations to their backbenchers. Tory MPs are the ultimate arbiters of Mr Lamont's fate. The press is merely a convenient proxy for their own snap judgment, as Mr Mellor painfully discovered.

To be sure there is no end of puzzles in the Mellor and Lamont affairs. Why do newspapers no longer check embarrassing stories direct with those

concerned, and hold off until they have done so? Why were the mostly fabricated Mellor "revelations" never put to him? What has happened to the press code of practice on privacy, blatantly breached in the matter of Mr Lamont's Thresher invoice and Access accounts? I see nowhere in the privacy code that its terms do not apply to embattled Chancellors.

And what of Peter Carter-Ruck and the Middleton memo? Any minister who calls

Mr Carter-Ruck knows two things, that he charges high fees and that a warning from him goads the press to dig deeper. Again there is nothing particularly wrong in the taxpayer contributing to a minister's legal fees; but to £4,000 of "press advice" at a time when the legal aid budget is under assault? And has the Comptroller and Auditor General nothing better to do than to investigate this tiny sum for "two to three weeks?"

This should be small talk. Yet political silliness has its own conventions, its own heartless clichés formed in the eddies of Westminster gossip. Words like "question mark", "tarnished", "poor judgement" hover over individuals in ways unrelated to their official performance. What the nation might consider a hanging offence — grand larceny with the public finances — is considered a peccadillo in Westminster. What might seem a peccadillo to the nation is a hanging offence within the confines of the club.

For Mr Lamont to be expected to resign for delay in paying his Access or Brighton hotel bills or for accepting the tactless generosity of Sir Peter Middleton would be absurd. To roll all this up into a bundle marked "private but reflecting on wider judgment" is meanly-mouthed. If John Major had wanted a sacrificial lamb for the recessionary actions initiated by himself in 1990 and concluded on September 16, Mr Lamont was the obvious lamb. But Mr Major stood by him, as did his backbenchers. If the Comptroller and Auditor General has time to kill, how about the £1 billion or so spent on supporting sterling after the Treasury knew that devaluation was unavoidable, spent so that ministers could say they were forced to devalue only by market pressure? Value for money?

There have been a dozen plausible moments for Tory MPs to march into the whips office in the past two years and demand the Chancellor's head. They have not done so. They have gathered in the committee rooms and banged their desks in his support. Now they turn yellow-bellied at the flash of a Carter-Ruck invoice or the pop of a Thresher's champagne cork. They see these comic cuts consuming forests of newsprint. They see them leading the television news. This distracts ministers and undermines cabinet efficiency, speciously validating the gossip-monger's craft.

Every cabinet needs a Caliban, not just to gather wood but to carry some burden of guilt for misdemeanours "in the dark backward and abysm of time". Mr Lamont thus serves his master. (But having a Caliban, Mr Major badly needs a Prospero and an Ariel.) Since September 16 Mr Lamont has also pursued sensible policies sensibly. He has begun to do the right thing. There will be a time for his translation. It is not today over a mess of invoices, an unethical intrusion and a panic of backbench pusillanimity.

Pennies for the party

NICE TO SEE that amid all the fuss about Treasury handouts to her husband, Rosemary Lamont is doing her bit to put some cash back into the party's empty coffers. Mrs Lamont is "at home" at 11 Downing Street this morning with 250 to 300 guests to raise money for the beleaguered Conservative party.

Tickets for the coffee morning, which is being hosted jointly with Sandra Howard, wife of the employment secretary, have gone out to the wives of all the cabinet ministers. The event is expected to raise at least £5,000 worth of gifts for the party's winter ball next year, one of the most glittering events in the Tories' social calendar.

Mrs Lamont, who has a reputation for striking a hard bargain, has not left the fund-raising aspect to chance. Guests have been rather firmly "invited" to bring prizes for the tombola sale for the winter ball. The letter accompanying the invitation states: "It would be wonderful if you were able to bring three or four prizes value about £5 each. We would like to collect about 1,000 prizes."

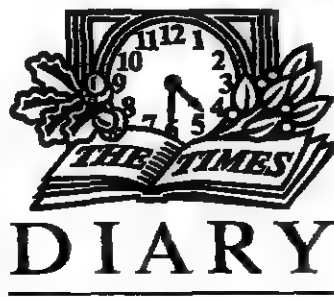
Among those who are expected

to attend, and whose presence will lend much appreciated support to the Lamonts, are Norma Major, Maurice Saatchi, Peter Gummer and Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, as well as a variety of Tory MPs and party officials. The Chancellor is expected to make an appearance at the fund-raising, which should go some way to placating some of his critics in the Tory party.

Penny Gummer, wife of the agriculture minister, expects the morning to be a triumph for Mrs Lamont. She is hoping to pop in with her tombola prizes and says: "Like a lot of wives who have been to number 11, I think Rosemary is extremely generous with her time. She is a wonderful hostess. Everyone has a lovely time because she makes people feel at home in her home. She uses her house for various good causes."

As many Tory workers would testify there is no more needy cause at present than the parlous state of the party's finances.

Music lovers attending tonight's performance by Docklands Sinfonietta at the Barbican will be



surprised to see the female members of the orchestra decked out in the latest fashions rather than their traditional sombre evening gowns. The orchestra has just struck a new sponsorship deal with Warehouse, the high street fashion chain, which is giving in kind. "The women musicians have had a wonderful time trying on all the clothes," says a spokeswoman. "The men will still be in black tie."

No cracks for Jim

IF popular mythology is to be believed, Baroness Thatcher, when she was prime minister, would regularly kick off her shoes and listen to *The Jimmy Young Show* on BBC Radio 2. Despite the fact that he has interviewed every prime minister since Harold Macmillan, it is

Lady Thatcher with whom he is irrevocably linked. He interviewed her more than ten times.

Nevertheless, Young still does not understand why people call him Mrs Thatcher's favourite broadcaster.

"I never met her socially. The only time I spoke to her was in the studio and then only on air," Young revealed at the party in the House of Commons to celebrate 19 years of his show on Monday night.

Surrounded by his holiday stand-ins — Neil Kinnock, Lord Archer and Edwina Currie — Young admitted that interviewing the former prime minister was never easy. Lady Thatcher was not one for relaying during the musical interludes in the interview.

"She would always ask for a pad on her arrival and the moment the music started she would start writing and cease conversation. There was no small talk. Ever," said Young.

Now aged 69, Young, who has no intention of retiring, has made at least one programme that was more nerve-wracking than interviewing the former prime minister. "It was the first live broadcast to Europe from Moscow in 1977," the disc jockey recalled. "All went well until we played the interview



back on the World Service to Russia the next day. The Russians threatened to throw me in prison if I ever returned."

Norman Lamont appears to be one of the few people who has not bought Bricout champagne and Raffles cigarettes at Thresher's in Praed Street. Since the erroneous news of his "purchase" was leaked the shop has been inundated with people wanting the recession-busting fizz.

Norman Lamont should brace himself for further revelations about his past. His time as president of the Cambridge Union Society is to be put under the microscope by Sydney Elwood, clerk of Cambridge University's debating society from 1948 to 1967. Elwood, now 85, is writing his memoirs for publication next year and promises an armful of anecdotes about former union presidents, including Lamont, who was president in 1964 when this cartoon of him was published in the January 24 edition of *New Cambridge*. "He was a fine debater and very well dressed," Elwood says. "He put things over very well. But I do think he has been treated very badly recently."

Up and atom

A ROW of atomic proportions has broken out over Glasgow District Council policy of declaring itself a "nuclear-free zone", and the main victim could be the city's Royal Concert Hall. Scottish Nuclear is rumoured to be considering withdrawing its £20,000 three-year grant from the concert hall because the council, which also funds the hall, openly advertises itself as "nuclear-free" and campaigns to

phase out Scottish Nuclear's two power stations, Hunterston B and Torness.

The 2,500-seater hall, built two years ago, hosts a wide variety of concerts, from Neil Sedaka to the St Petersburg Philharmonia. Its grant from Scottish Nuclear is due to run to 1994. But a council spokesman says: "It is more than likely that the grant will be cut at the end of the year. I could not possibly comment on the conflict with our nuclear-free policy."

A Scottish Nuclear spokesman says "It's a storm in a teacup. We are not going to withdraw the grant. And how can Glasgow be nuclear-free? Fifty per cent of their electricity is supplied by us."

It's an unclear zone





COSMETIC BLOCK

Labour MPs should revert to choosing their own leader

Within the Labour party the trade unions have always paid the piper. The question facing 17 men and women, as they meet in Walworth Road this morning, is how far they should go on calling the tune. The key is the block vote which, in the first flush of coming to the leadership last July, John Smith gave every sign of wanting to replace. Alas, everything that has happened since has provided a melancholy illustration of the power of inertia in Labour politics.

The review group, charged by Mr Smith with the task of looking at the party's traditional links with the unions, has laboured for four months; but all it has produced is an insignificant mouse. Its draft report is concerned principally with cosmetics.

The unions are to be allowed to continue flexing their industrial muscle over policy-making. The only difference is that they are to be encouraged to do so in future with a little more delicacy. Accordingly, their share of the vote at the party conference will be reduced ultimately to a modest 50 per cent (next year it will be a slightly less bashful 70 per cent), and even the most brazen of the barons will find themselves denied the pleasure of brandishing cards symbolising as many as a million votes. Different areas of a union will cast their votes separately but still, we are assured, in step with the union's national policy.

At the grassroots, too, attempts are to be made to temper any unfortunate impression of constituency parties proposing and unions disposing. Instead of marching into selection conferences as self-contained industrial units, affiliated trade union branches are to be required to exert their clout through the gauze curtain of a roll of "registered Labour supporters". Such

transparent sleights-of-hand hardly seem likely to deceive anyone.

Labour's new leader is said to be unhappy with the result of the review group's deliberations — and it is easy to understand why. He cannot afford to give the impression that, when it comes to modernising the party, he is less of a reformer than his predecessor, Neil Kinnock. Mr Kinnock's dedication to the principle of "one member, one vote" was always both consistent and courageous: he lost a crucial battle over it at his very first conference as party leader.

By instinct and nature a more cautious figure, Mr Smith betrayed absolutely no appetite for risking a similar rebuff at this year's party conference: but if setting up the review group bought him time, it only postponed — and did not avoid — the moment at which he will have to show the colour of his own convictions.

Back in the leadership campaign of last summer, those seemed obvious enough. Then Mr Smith even hinted that he hoped his own election would be the last in which the block vote operated. The review group has given him short shrift even on that. Its draft report suggests that, at best, it proposes to modify the predominant weight of the trade union block vote within the electoral college, not to remove it.

If Mr Smith seriously wishes to send a reassuring message to the electorate, then he could do worse than to intimate that his own preferred solution is for Labour MPs to revert to electing their own leader — just as they always did before the outbreak of Bennite "accountability" in 1980-81. It would certainly be one way of demonstrating that he, at least, is not content to have his party regarded as a wholly-owned trade union subsidiary.

LAW OF SEX AND PAIN

Consensual sado-masochism should not be made a crime

When a group of men — including a local government officer, a computer operator and an engineer — meet in the privacy of their own homes, one might expect them to engage in the usual activities: the odd drink, a little banter, perhaps a soccer match on television or a game of bridge. It would be beyond the bounds of most people's imagination to envisage the sort of get-together that led to the prosecution of five middle-aged men, whose case is now before the House of Lords. In a newspaper that is read over breakfast, the details need not be spelt out. Suffice it to say that these men engaged in sado-masochistic activities that would turn the stomachs of most people.

In December 1990, they were convicted at the Old Bailey under the 1861 Offences Against the Person Act, for assault and aiding and abetting assault. The judgment was upheld in the Court of Appeal last February by Lord Lane, who cited the precedent of a 1934 case in which a man was found guilty of assault when he caned a woman "for the purposes of sexual gratification".

All the acts concerned in today's case were committed with the consent of the "victim". These men enjoyed being hurt, indeed asked other people to hurt them. All the offences took place in private, with no intention to deprave or corrupt anybody else. None of the injuries was severe enough to warrant medical treatment. The men thought they were indulging in homosexual acts in private between consenting adults, and were therefore perfectly within the law.

English law already stretches far into citizens' sexual behaviour. Buggery between consenting men over 21 is now legal, but it is still illegal between men and women, even

between husbands and wives. If the House of Lords upholds the lower courts' judgments, the constraints on what consenting adults can do to each other in private will tighten still further.

Lord Lane held that consent could be no defence, citing a 1980 Appeal Court case of two youths who received minor injuries when they agreed to fight each other. The fight was ruled illegal because there was "no good reason" for the assaults to be allowed. "The satisfying of the sado-masochistic libido does not come within the category of good reason," said Lord Lane.

That does not seem self-evident. If the activities in the Spanner case are to be made illegal, why not spanking or whipping for sexual gratification, both of which take place by consent, sometimes even in houses owned by famous men. Bonding is a sport in which men intentionally bring each other closer to death than the accused in the Spanner case did. Yet it is both legal and honoured.

Of course consent is vital, and one person harming another is always vulnerable to the victim withdrawing his consent afterwards. But if the victim continues to contend that he wanted the "assault" to take place, if there is no evidence of coercion or intention to do more harm than was consented to, the result can be no business of the law.

Judge Rant, in the first hearing, said that "the courts must draw the line between what is acceptable in a civilised society and what is not". That is a proposition both dubious and dangerous. He is not appointed to decide such a question. Indeed, the very mark of a civilised society is that, as far as possible, it allows its citizens the liberty and the privacy to do as they like.

RAINBOW CONFUSION

Ireland's Labour leader must find every scrap of consensus

Dick Spring, leader of the Irish Labour party, has emerged from last week's elections in the Republic the all-conquering bronze medalist. In spite of impressive gains in the Dáil, Labour still has fewer MPs than either Fine Gael or Fianna Fáil. Yet the oddities of the Irish electoral system mean that the charismatic Mr Spring is now undisputed power-broker in the search for a new pact.

Though he makes no secret of his ambition to replace Fianna Fáil's discredited Albert Reynolds as taoiseach, the true test of the Labour leader's statesmanship will be his ability to forge a new and stable coalition. Since the election, the punt has weakened and overnight interest rates have soared to 100 per cent. Without (and perhaps even with) devaluation, a quarter of the Irish workforce will soon be unemployed. The Republic desperately needs a strong administration to steer it away from economic disaster.

Mr Spring's claim to authority is that of a self-styled mould-breaker. While Labour doubled its representation in the Dáil, Fianna Fáil's showing last week was its worst since 1927, the year after its foundation by Eamon de Valera in opposition to the Anglo-Irish Treaty. John Bruton's Fine Gael also lost seats. Like the election of Mary Robinson as president two years ago, these are small signs that 70 years of attrition fought on the red battle lines of the civil war may now be drawing to a close.

The news of creeping change cannot disguise the sheer familiarity of the difficulties facing Mr Spring and his prospective partners. As ever, the parties are dithering at their leisure over the spoils of the election,

and have left the lame-duck Reynolds government, with little immediate prospect of replacement, to preside over a currency crisis. Mr Spring has indicated that the consultations, which began in earnest yesterday, may drag on for several weeks.

The likeliest pact to emerge from the smoke-filled rooms will bring together Labour, Fine Gael and the Progressive Democrats, the so-called "rainbow coalition". Labour has already ruled out privatisation, and proposes instead a national jobs forum and an old-fashioned interventionist package which would increase public borrowing by at least £350 million next year. Fine Gael and the PDs, in contrast, support private-sector solutions to the country's economic ills and a tight rein on public spending. Hailed as a new kind of Irish government, such a coalition might be as fissionable as its forbears.

To avoid this, Mr Spring must make the most of those issues where there is identity of opinion among the three parties, beyond a shared distrust of Fianna Fáil. All are committed to a legislative, rather than constitutional, settlement of the abortion question, following last week's botched referendum. All favour an improvement in Anglo-Irish relations and a less dogmatic approach to Northern Ireland.

There is also room for compromise on taxation. But, to secure that compromise, Mr Spring may have to yield power to the uninspiring Mr Bruton, whose party commands 12 more seats than Labour and would find it difficult to accept Mr Spring as taoiseach. On this occasion, today's heir apparent may have to settle for the role of kingmaker.

Queen's decision to pay tax

From Mr Alexander Seddon

Sir, Janet Daley ("Who owns Windsor Castle?", November 24) misunderstands the status of Her Majesty when she discusses whether the monarch "as an ordinary citizen" should pay tax. The Crown is the traditional first estate of our constitution. The Queen is the pinnacle of that estate and as our head of state would appear to be above the status of citizen, which is a modern synonym for a subject.

The idea that the Queen should have two personae would not only create a confusing mixture of Her Majesty the Queen and "Mrs Windsor the citizen" but automatically destroy the sanctity of the monarch as the sovereign leader of our nation.

It is not for us to impose standards upon the Sovereign.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER SEDDON,
The Old Vicarage,
26 Wandale Road, SW17,
November 26.

From Mrs Helen Carver

Sir, I really must protest about Philip Howard's article (November 26). What does he think the Queen is doing but "getting on with the untidy business of life"?

In any other profession after 40 years of loyal service she would be given a gold clock and grateful thanks. The British press have decided to tear her limb from limb at every opportunity. They all deserve the Bloody Tower.

Yours faithfully,
HELEN CARVER,
10 Willow Court, Mareham Lane,
Sleaford, Lincolnshire,
November 26.

From Lydia Duchess of Bedford

Sir, We have become a totally graceless society. Why do we not thank the Queen for this gesture she has made? Instead it is "How much?" "Too late," "What is she worth?" etc., all ugly.

The image of our royal family should remain shrouded somewhat in mystique, for this is their right. Even Joe Bloggs keeps his financial picture close to his chest.

Yours etc.,
LYDIA BEDFORD,
Ridgeway Cottage, Chertsey Road,
Windsorham, Surrey.

From Mr Ron Hoggart

Sir, I doff my cap to the Queen and to the Prince of Wales for volunteering to pay income tax. I would never have done so.

It makes a refreshing change for somebody to opt in rather than seek to opt out.

Yours sincerely,
RON HOGGART,
111 Kirkstall Lane, Kirkstall,
West Yorkshire,
November 27.

From Mr Charles Clifford

Sir, Surely no taxation without representation?

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES CLIFFORD,
17 St Anne's Court, W1,
November 30.

Services and shows

From Mr G. C. M. Young

Sir, Could those who organise memorial services perhaps consider whether a church is the appropriate place or whether such occasions should be arranged in theatres or other places of public entertainment.

Recently, for instance, you have reported (November 25, 27) where one or two persons have officiated, but they are "supported" by an actor reading a lesson; other people in the acting, media or allied professions then "gave addresses", "read passages", and sang "from popular shows". In one such thanksgiving 15 people took part in addition to the priest. Cecil B. DeMille would have been proud to stage such a performance.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM YOUNG,
New Milton, Back Lane,
Fairford, Gloucestershire,
November 30.

First catch your boar

From Mrs Amore Tanner

Sir, What has happened to your readers' sense of humour and culinary enterprise (letters, November 13, 24)? Our Christmas lunch last year was a roast of pork, previously marinated for four days in wine and herbs, served with game accompaniments. Firmly told that they were being indulged in wild boar as a special treat, three generations of consumers marvelled and suspected nothing until this public confession.

Yours faithfully,
AMORE TANNER,
The Footprint,
Padworth Common,
Reading, Berkshire,
November 24.

Business letters, page 25
Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Privatisation of Inland Revenue

From the General Secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation

Sir, The programme of market testing in government departments announced by Mr William Waldegrave (report, November 26) should be examined closely. If it is, even though it conceals more than it reveals, it should alarm your readers.

It is becoming clear that the Treasury team is intent on surreptitiously privatising in a variety of ways much of the Inland Revenue. This is being done without public debate and by hiding key structure changes in the administration of government behind the cloak of the citizen's charter.

Taxpayers' and companies' rights to privacy and confidentiality will barely get a hearing as their highly sensitive material is passed to the private sector. In addition to the privatisation of Inland Revenue services such as typing and computer processing, other radical changes are being planned, again in secret and without consultation with taxpayers or businesses.

Private-sector banks also handle confidential information, as the government reminds us. But then you can choose your bank and what information you divulge to it. You can't do that with your tax office.

Lamont expenses

From Mr Hugh Cartwright

Sir, The payment to Mr Lamont of over £23,000 in respect of legal fees for the eviction of his tenant is clearly a benefit from his office, and therefore a benefit in kind. It follows that the payment should be subject to tax at 40 per cent.

Some of this expense will, of course, be deductible from the rental income, and thus tax relievable. But it is unlikely that this income is high enough to cover the expenses. As any rental loss may not be set-off against other income, it should cost the Chancellor some tax.

And so it should.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH CARTWRIGHT,
32 Enmore Gardens,
East Sheen, SW14,
November 30.

From Mr Michael Williams and Mr David Allan

Sir, When we do work funded by the government (i.e., legal aid) we are obliged to charge specific hourly rates and our bill is subjected to rigorous scrutiny by the courts.

Is there any reason why this should

Sameness is all

From the Director of the Georgian Group

Sir, The leasehold enfranchisement measures now before Parliament will be very damaging to important parts of the country's architectural heritage, particularly in London.

Much of the development of central London in the Georgian period was carried out by large estates, and many of the historic estates which survive maintain their property to a high standard and impose a uniformity of appearance which is an important part of the character of the buildings and areas concerned.

There are other examples of historic estates practising good management elsewhere in the country. Leasehold enfranchisement will

Judicial appointments

From the Acting President and the Secretary of the Council of Chairmen of Industrial Tribunals

Sir, The full pensionable service for chairmen of industrial tribunals is 15 years, as it is for circuit judges and High Court judges, but chairmen are paid significantly less. Because of that salary differential the office of chairman is not so attractive to those who have the necessary expertise at the age at which they would have to be appointed if they are to be required in future to serve for 20 years to attain full pension entitlement.

The result, therefore, would be either that those of lesser ability would seek the appointments at that age, or the able candidates would seek appointments later. The public interest would not, therefore, be well served by what would inevitably be either a lowering of standard, or an increase in the average age.

The jurisdiction of the industrial tribunal has grown considerably, is continuing to expand, and, more importantly, has a closer connection and involvement with European law than any other forum in the United Kingdom. It also requires a close knowledge of real life in the workplace from its chairmen, as well as its lay members.

The difficulty of obtaining even part-time chairmen of the right quality has already been referred to in your columns (Law Times, August 4) by the President of Industrial Tribunals for England and Wales, His Honour Judge Timothy Lawrence, when he pointed out the problem of their rates of pay. It is from those part-time chairmen that full-time chairmen are appointed; inevitably the average age of part-time chairmen will increase. The effect of this, coupled with the present proposals, will mean a rise in

Plans are being made to reorganise the Inland Revenue network of local offices, with threats to local access and taxpayer service, without any proper consultations with the public, accountants — let alone Revenue staff.

Following closely behind are proposals to fundamentally alter the relationship between the taxpayer and the Revenue. People will be required to do the Revenue's job by assessing their own taxes. And if they cannot do that they will have to pay an agent to do it on their behalf, just as they do in America.

And as in America, a small core Inland Revenue will need a battery of draconian powers to enforce compliance of the tax laws, not just a major shift in culture for more customer service, but a tearing up of the contract between the citizen and the state.

Now is the time for a proper public debate on the machinery of government and taxpayers' rights, not after fundamental decisions have been made, by few and in secret.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE BROOKE,
General Secretary,
Inland Revenue
Staff Federation,
Douglas Houghton House,
231 Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1,
November 24.

not have applied in Mr Lamont's case?

Yours faithfully,
M. J. WILLIAMS,
DAVID ALLAN,
Polsons (solicitors),
Winchester House, Winchester Street,
Botley, Southampton, Hampshire,
November 30.

From Mr Peter Hassell

Sir, I recently resigned from the Conservative party over the attempt to close the pits prematurely. Now I read that whilst I was a member, party funds were secretly used to subsidise Lamont.

Is there any way I can resign twice?

Yours faithfully,
PETER HASSELL,
28 Brown's Hill, Dartmouth, Devon,
December 1.

From Dr Bob Bury

Sir, So — Norman Lamont likes a drink and doesn't keep up to date with his Access payments. At last, a Tory politician I can identify with.

Yours faithfully,
BOB BURY,
3 Elmets Avenue,
Oakwood, Leeds, West Yorkshire.

lead to the erosion and break-up of these estates and the benefits which their management produces will be lost. The government argues that existing powers with respect to listed buildings and conservation areas mean that this loss will not be felt, but these powers do not compare with the detailed control exercised by estate managements.

Once this is removed random alterations, different paint colours and simply poor maintenance will gradually transform the character of the estates. They should be exempted from the effects of the proposed legislation.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL CUDLIPP, Director,
The Georgian Group,
37 Spital Square, E1,
November 30.

the average age of full-time chairmen, unless there is a corresponding drop in quality. We venture to suggest that that cannot be in the public interest.

Yours faithfully,
M. A. RICH,
Acting President,
CHRISTOPHER GOODCHILD,
Secretary,
Council of Chairmen of
Industrial Tribunals,
3rd Floor, Dukes Keep,
Marsh Lane,
Southampton, Hampshire.

From Mr Christopher Jackson

Sir, The Lord Chancellor will cause the institution of the judiciary in this country to take a giant step forward when he appoints one of the several excellent "solicitor" judges now sitting in the Crown and the county courts to the High Court bench.

The fact that those solicitor judges already exist shows that it is simply not true to say, as you do (leading article, November 24), that to qualify for a judgeship a candidate must be a high-flying barrister, and a QC to boot. Some of those judges who came from the solicitor's branch of the legal profession are already licensed to sit as deputy judges of the High Court and have made a considerable contribution, particularly in the field of family law.

An appointment of one of that group to sit as a judge of the Family Division would mark that contribution, would help to alter the common perception of the judiciary which is so accurately portrayed in your leader and would help to tackle the shortage of High Court judges reported in your paper on the preceding day.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER JACKSON,
61a Mill Hill Road,
Cowes, Isle of Wight.

Art world dismay over grants

From the Chairman of the National Art Collections Fund

Sir, Simon Mundy (letter, November 25) has quite rightly drawn attention to the depressing implications for the art world of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement. Until this year the annual purchase grants of our 19 national museums had been frozen at 1985 levels. In real terms, the money available for the purchase of new works of art has declined steeply.

Under the guise of giving museums "a new flexibility to help them manage better" the government has brought to an end the system of allocating separate grants-in-aid towards running costs, purchase grants, and building and maintenance. Our national museums will now have to determine for themselves whether they should spend the money given to them on mending holes in the roof or adding to their collections.

The new unitary grants-in-aid offer no comfort. In all but a few cases the money provided over the next three years will be declining in real terms and the aggregate total rising by less than 2 per cent.

The primary task of the National Art Collections Fund is to help our museums and galleries to acquire works of art. The effect of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement will be greatly to increase the burden placed on us and others like us.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS GOODISON,
Chairman,
National Art Collections Fund,
20 John Islip Street, SW1.

Vilnius discrimination

From Professor J. B. Derogowski

Sir, Your leader on November 17, "Lithuanian landslide", states that the Polish government disapproves of what it sees as discriminatory policies of the Lithuanian government against Poles living in Lithuania. It perceives the situation in Lithuania correctly. There is a plethora of evidence of such discrimination. Let me present you with one instance, which I have personally verified.

In 1907 the Polish community in Vilnius obtained permission (from the Russian Tsarist government) to establish a learned society and to erect a building for the purpose. Collection of voluntary contributions was made and the society flourished until the 1940s, when the Lithuanian authorities with no justification whatsoever occupied the building and dispersed the library in an attempt to eradicate all signs of Polish culture.

The building is still occupied. It is used, ironically, for storage of works of art from the Stalinist era. A Polish theatre, which was built through the munificence of a private donor, was, I understand, likewise sequestered and remains so.

Yours faithfully,
JAN B. DEROGOWSKI,
University of Aberdeen,
Department of Psychology,
King's College,
Old Aberdeen AB9 2UB.

Battle stations

From Dr Michael Essex-Lopresti

Sir, If it were decided to change the name of King's Cross station to avoid offending French republican sentiments (Dr Ralph Hawtrey's letter, November 19), perhaps it should revert to its former name "Battle Bridge". Near the station is Battlebridge Basin off the Regent's Canal on which stands the London Canal Museum in an old Victorian ice house.

The name was changed to King's Cross when in 1830 a statue of George IV was erected where the Great North Road crossed the New Road (now Euston Road), described as a "hideous monstrosity". It was removed in 1845.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ESSEX-LOPRESTI
(Trustee, Canal Museum Trust),
The London Canal Museum,
12/13 New Wharf Road,
King's Cross, N1.

PR example

From Mr W. C. Weston

Sir, Perhaps those people beguiled by the attractions of proportional representation might care to reflect on the political scene in the Irish Republic both now and as the auction develops.

Yours faithfully,
W. C. WESTON,
17 Talsman,
Newport, Hampshire,
November 28.

Marking time

From Mr Matthew Hickley

Sir, Is promotional merchandising scaling new heights? The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra now offers a "Simon Rattle Wrist-watch", where the celebrated conductor's picture appears and his hand and baton form the sweeping second hand. "Keep in time with Simon!"

Yours faithfully,
M. HICKLEY,
372 Heath Road South,
Northfield, Birmingham 31.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 1: The Queen held an investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

Mr Sydney Chapman MP (Vice-Chairman of the House) was received in audience by Her Majesty and presented an Address from the House of Commons to which the Queen was graciously pleased to make reply.

The Honourable Ronald Reagan and Mrs Reagan visited Her Majesty this afternoon.

The Rt Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of the Queen this evening.

Mrs John Duggdale has succeeded the Lady Elton as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, today attended Reception for young people who have reached the Queen's Standard in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness, President and Honorary Life Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, this evening attended a Dinner and presented the Albert Medal at the Society's House, London WC2.

Wing Commander Christopher Moran RAF was in attendance.

December 1: The Prince of Wales, President, today attended the 1992 Royal Times Comedy and Drama Awards Presentation and Luncheon at the May Fair Hotel, Straton Street, London W1.

Mrs Richard Warburton was in attendance.

December 1: The Princess Royal, President, Riding for the Disabled Association, this morning attended the Bedford and District Handicapped Riders Association's new Riding Complex at Balls Lane, Willington, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Bedfordshire (Mr Samuel Whitbread).

Her Royal Highness, President, Save the Children Fund, afterwards visited BPC Waterford Limited at Dunstable.

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Worshipful Company of Lintners, this evening attended the Annual Lintner Dinner of the Worshipful Company of Lintners and Cellars at Carpenters' Hall, Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2.

Mrs Charles Ritchie was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
December 1: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother today honoured the Colonels of Her Regiments with her presence at Luncheon at the Cavalry and Guards Club.

The Lady Margaret Colville and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

The Lady Margaret Colville has succeeded the Hon Mr Rhodes as Lady-in-Waiting to Her Majesty.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 1: The Prince of Wales, Patron, Atlantic Salmon Trust, today attended the Council of Management Meeting at Fishmongers Hall, London EC4.

Commander Richard Aylard RN was in attendance.

His Royal Highness, President, Royal College of General Practitioners, this evening attended a Reception for the Commission on Primary Care at the Royal College, Prince's Gate, London SW7.

Miss Belinda Harley was in attendance.

Finally, The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Youth Business Trust, this evening entertained a Dinner for the Trustees at Kensington Palace.

The Princess of Wales, Patron, British Deaf Association, this morning attended the launch of the British Sign Language Dictionary at City Library Club, St. John College, Victoria Embankment, London EC4.

Captain Edward Muso RM was in attendance.

December 1: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Patron, this evening entertained a Luncheon at London Lighthouse, Lancaster Road, London W1.

Her Royal Highness subsequently viewed an exhibition to mark World AIDS Day.

The Lady Glenconner was in attendance.

December 1: The Duchess of Gloucester this evening attended a Gala Performance given by Clontar Opera For All at the Britten Theatre, Royal College of Music, London SW7.

Mrs Howard Page was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 1: The Duke of Kent, Patron, this afternoon received Mr J Campbell, Director General of the Institute of Export.

His Royal Highness, Patron of the Tree Council, this evening attended the President's Dinner at the Cavalry and Guards Club, Piccadilly, London W1.

Commander Roger Walker RN was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, Patron of the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust, this evening attended a Reception at the Honourable Artillery Company, Armoury House, London EC1.

Mrs David Napier was in attendance.

HATCHED HOUSE LODGE
RICHMOND PARK
December 1: Princess Alexandra and the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy this evening attended the opening of the Sainsbury Gallery of Korean Art at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London SW7.

The Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox was in attendance.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.E.H. Baker
and **Miss S.E. Swann**
The engagement is announced between Mr N.E.H. Baker, of Knockholt, Kent, and Katharine Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs I.P. Swann, of West Ashling, West Sussex.

Mr G.M. Beeson
and **Miss S.E. Robinson**
The engagement is announced between Mr G.M. Beeson, of Wokingham, Berkshire, and Miss S.E. Robinson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Graham C. Robinson, of Wokingham, Berkshire.

Mr H.D. Carmichael
and **Miss S.J. Freer**
The engagement is announced between Mr H.D. Carmichael, of Wokingham, Surrey, and Miss S.J. Freer, daughter of Mr and Mrs Graham C. Robinson, of Wokingham, Berkshire.

Mr A.W.D. McLean
and **Miss R.J. Caldwell**
The engagement is announced between Mr A.W.D. McLean, of Wokingham, Surrey, and Miss R.J. Caldwell, daughter of Mr and Mrs Graham C. Robinson, of Wokingham, Berkshire.

Mr J.J. Doonan
and **Miss S.E. Gosham**
The engagement is announced between Mr J.J. Doonan, of Wokingham, Surrey, and Miss S.E. Gosham, daughter of Mr and Mrs Graham C. Robinson, of Wokingham, Berkshire.

Mr W.D. Peel Yates
and **Miss F.M. Hutchinson**
The engagement is announced between Mr W.D. Peel Yates, of Wokingham, Surrey, and Miss F.M. Hutchinson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Graham C. Robinson, of Wokingham, Berkshire.

Mr S.J. Petherick
and **Miss C.C. Pike**
The engagement is announced between Mr S.J. Petherick, of Wokingham, Surrey, and Miss C.C. Pike, daughter of Mr and Mrs Graham C. Robinson, of Wokingham, Berkshire.

Mr P.J. Petherick
and **Miss C.C. Pike**
The engagement is announced between Mr P.J. Petherick, of Wokingham, Surrey, and Miss C.C. Pike, daughter of Mr and Mrs Graham C. Robinson, of Wokingham, Berkshire.

Mr N.R.W. Wright
and **Miss L.C. Benson**
The engagement is announced between Mr N.R.W. Wright, of Wokingham, Surrey, and Miss L.C. Benson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Graham C. Robinson, of Wokingham, Berkshire.

Mr R.J.P. Morley
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STOCK MARKET

Peking threat hits firms with HK links

SHARES of British companies exposed to Hong Kong were hit after China's threat to repudiate all commercial agreements made by the current government there which are not first agreed with Peking.

However, many City observers were taking the view that the dispute is no more than posturing and sabre-rattling, with both sides out to set new ground rules. But the Hang Seng index responded to China's war of words with Chris Patten, the governor of Hong Kong, with a 7 per cent fall and is now selling on a multiple of nine times next year's earnings.

Among stocks with a large exposure to Hong Kong and affected by China's open challenge, HSBC, where the colony accounts for about two-thirds of profits and about a quarter of the bank's total assets, lost 16p to 502p. Others include Cable and Wireless, which gains about 55 per cent of taxable profits from the area, down 6p to 659p, and Standard Chartered, which has 130 offices in Hong Kong and describes it as its most significant operation, 10p weaker at 543p.

Meanwhile, equities pushed for breath early on as profit-takers' selective selling depressed prices. This initially put the brakes on the recent record-breaking run, but the early losses were reversed after a big buyer of the futures helped to push the cash market back into positive record-

breaking territory. A negative start on Wall Street did little to slow London down and the underlying tone held firm, with dealers continuing to pin their hopes on economic recovery, starting in America.

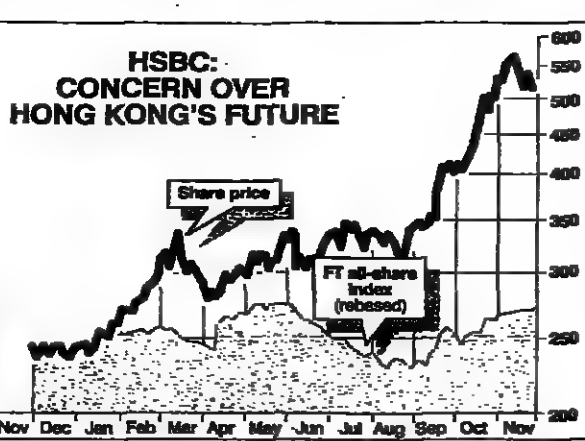
A late futures-driven rally allowed shares to close near their best levels. The FT-SE 100 index tested the important 2,800 level, ending the day at another record close of 2,792.0, up 13.2, having touched a new intra-day record trading high of 2,794.7 during the afternoon. Volume reached a reasonably healthy 631 million shares.

Buying interest from overseas investors, particularly Americans, helped to keep international stocks in favour. Among those attracting support, ICI advanced 19p to £10.13. Reuters added 18p to

Bridon, the wire rope maker, advanced 3p to 56p on news that it has won its biggest order to date. Bridon is involved in a joint venture company that has won the world's largest order for high carbon steel wire. The £20 million wire rope contract is for the Tsing Ma Bridge in Hong Kong.

£13.54 and BOC Group rose 17p to 773p.

The retailing and stores sector also attracted fresh seasonal demand, partly for technical reasons. Argos gained 8p to 284p. Laura Ashley 4p to 81p. Boots 7p to 524p. Clinton Cards 7p to 88p and Dixons, which is thought to be enjoying strong pre-Christmas



trading in America and the UK, added 9p to 260p. GUS A rose 27p to £15.50. Kingfisher 2p to 585p. Marks and Spencer 7p to 340p. Next 5p to 134p. Rainers 2p to 194p. WH Smith A 8p to 493p and Storehouse firmed 1p to 190p.

The recent strong run of Asda Group came to an end as the profit-takers moved in. The shares lost 5p to 52p after reports that James Capel and BZW were among brokers advising their clients to sell.

Shares in Tarmac were 5p stronger at 90p after a newspaper report of the company's purchase from the government of the Property Services Agency which suggested the deal was significantly more favourable to the company than had been reported.

Tarmac was taking issue with some of the figures ascribed to the deal, while refusing to become drawn into the political row. The company says many of the financial arrange-

ments for the handover of the FSA confer no significant benefits on Tarmac itself, but are aimed at safeguarding the positions of government staff moving across.

The report also suggested Tarmac would receive £130 million from the government in settlement of outstanding claims on contracts being carried out. Tarmac had no comment on the figure, which appears to reflect the total amount the company is requesting rather than any final, negotiated figure.

Elsewhere, BPB was a good market, adding 9p to 184p, while RMC Group, which did a BZW presentation last week, gained 17p to 499p.

planned tie-up with Carlsberg, led to a slight rise in interim profits and a slightly lower than anticipated dividend. Allied shares were depressed by pre-Christmas caution, said to have come from Cazenove, Allied's joint-broker, and James Capel. Elsewhere in the sector, Grand

Metropolitan, which is due to report final results tomorrow, lost 12p to 447p, while Guinness advanced 19p to 557p, boosted by a recent buy recommendation from Nomura, the Japanese securities house. Nomura forecasts profits of £970 million for Guinness this year, with £1.09 billion expected next year.

Disappointing final losses and a slashed dividend from Trafalgar House saw shares in the engineering, construction and luxury liner group slide 6p to 89p, with reports that BZW was telling clients to sell in the wake of losses.

Tomkins announced that 90.4 per cent of its 200p-a-share rights issue to raise £653 million for the £935 million agreed takeover of Ranks. Hovis McDougall had been taken up. Tomkins shares firmed 3p to 232p, while RHM added 2p to 262p. The rumour of the Tomkins rights issue was comfortably placed by BZW.

BTR advanced 18p to 517p, boosted by reports of positive reviews from BZW and James Capel, while Vodafone improved 3p to 406p after talk of a buy note from Strauss Turnbull.

Euro Disney slid 43p to 725p on reports of an increased interest forecast from Goldman Sachs, the American securities house.

The construction and property giant, MEPC, 2p lower at 337p, was the latest to show the scars of the slump as profits fell sharply down, although the dividend was maintained.

MICHAEL CLARK

Profit-taking knocks Dow in early trading

New York — Shares turned lower in early trading as profit-taking forced the Dow industrials to give back more than half of Monday's advance, analysts said.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 10.80 points to 3294.36 while in a broad market declining issues pulled ahead of advancing shares seven to four.

□ Tokyo — Shares succumbed to profit-taking and closed near the day's lows. The Nikkei average was down 370.61 points, or 2.10 per cent, to 17,313.04, with about 260 million shares traded.

□ Singapore — Share prices closed easier on profit-taking, 1,544.89.

WALL STREET

Dec 1 Nov 30	Dec 1 Nov 30	Dec 1 Nov 30
midday	midday	midday
Alcoa Inc 59.50	59.50	59.50
Alcoa Corp 59.50	59.50	59.50
Alcoa Ind 59.50	59.50	59.50
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COMMENT

Chinese torture at Midland

In the sense of the old Chinese curse, these are interesting times for former shareholders in Midland Bank. Now part of the Hongkong and Shanghai bank, the Midland and its staff must be viewing with some concern the latest gyrations of the Hong Kong stock market. The Hang Seng index is being unnerved by the sound of sabre-rattling across the water on the mainland where the government is threatening mayhem for the business community after 1997. The warning that all contracts ratified by the Hong Kong government but not blessed by Peking will be invalid after the colony reverts to Chinese sovereignty may be dismissed as political posturing. But who can bank on it?

Chris Patten, Hong Kong's governor, is committed to further democratic reform in direct opposition to the wishes of the mainland authorities. The first casualty in this stand-off is investor confidence, as the 1,000-point tumble in the Hang Seng from last month's high demonstrates. But before long the war of words between Mr Patten and the Chinese government may hurt the real economy of the colony.

The mainland authorities have already allowed their displeasure at Hongkong and Shanghai Bank's takeover of the Midland to become widely known. Though it is clearly in the best interests of Peking to see HSBC as a strong and powerful entity, there is always a danger that for the Chinese authorities, ideology may overcome logic. The threat to official leases, contracts and other agreements certainly suggests that the economic interests of the colony, especially the need to maintain the confidence of business, are taking second place to politics just now. Such agreements are crucial in many large-scale infrastructure projects, such as the planned airport and container terminal.

There is now a danger that when Peking sneezes, Hong Kong will catch cold. Many investors are still sitting on handsome profits, thanks to the buoyancy of the market before the recent collapse. Former Midland shareholders are exposed to the likelihood of further panic selling in the colony. They must be hoping that Midland's far eastern rescuer does not itself become a pawn in the chess game that ends in 1997.

Not so Ritzy

There is nothing like recession for exposing a flawed business strategy. The glossy image of Trafalgar House in the booming mid-1980s could hardly have been more reassuring to investors. The exposure to high-growth activities such as construction, property, housebuilding and leisure, plus the patina of class conveyed by the brand names of Cunard and Ritz, were a winning combination. But as British Aerospace also found with its mix of defence, property and cars, a heady bull market mixture has a way of becoming a lethal cocktail in hard times.

For Sir Nigel Brookes and Sir Eric Parker, the architects of good times and bad for Trafalgar, the last couple of years brought a recession too deep from which to climb without substantial balance sheet damage. They go on their way handsomely compensated but shareholders face a bleak future. The perceived strength of Trafalgar's diverse profit stream has proved to be an illusion and there is more pain ahead. By tradition, new management goes in for a kitchen sink clearance that lays the foundations for strong recovery. Trafalgar analysts fear that certain banking covenants limited scope for asset write-downs. Dividends may need further cuts. Hongkong Land's presence as a stakeholder remains the best prop for Trafalgar's share price.

Making the Cadbury code work will test City's mood for change

The new code of best practice should lift company performance, but looks dated to reformers, writes Graham Searjeant

Time moves on. Eighteen months ago, Sir Adrian Cadbury's committee was set up amid disquiet over spectacular company failures and over boardroom sharp practice, exemplified by court cases against prominent businessmen and the odd prison sentence. Before the election, this was the business establishment's great hope for a voluntary cure that would avoid the heavy hand of law and bureaucracy.

By the time the committee issued its final report yesterday, this agenda had been somewhat overtaken. The election had passed, but calls for reform had intensified. Last week's paper from the Auditing Practices Board showed how much the climate has changed. Instead of the City and industry trying to convince hostile politicians that they were putting their house in order, the air is full of calls from leading City figures for a version of America's statutory Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Cadbury report looks slightly dated because it did not even aim at reform. Its mission was to spread the boardroom practices of the best-run companies to all the others. That approach has the advantage that its ideas are tested and can be put into effect straight away. If the Cadbury code achieves its aim, it should drag corporate performance up a notch over time, reduce the number of costly mistakes and help ensure they are dealt with, not swept under the boardroom carpet and smoothed over in company accounts.

As Sir Adrian admitted, bringing in the code might not stop rogue



Boardroom blueprint: Sir Adrian and fellow members of the team that drew up the code

entrepreneurs, such as the late Robert Maxwell. The good practices of the worthy might not change the behaviour of the unworthy.

The code's central thrust is to consolidate the role of non-executive directors. It obliges listed companies to have a minimum of three, to give them specific roles in audit and executive pay committees, and to involve them more in board decisions over material deals and capital investment. They would have to do more than eat a good lunch once a

quarter. The conservative nature of the report is underlined by changes made since the interim report in the summer. Apart from underlining the importance of internal auditors and company secretaries, these soften any notion that non-executives are a breed apart from the executives on a unitary board. The committee has bowed to thinly justified complaints from the Confederation of British Industry and the Institute of Directors that the code might bring in something akin to a two-tier board by

the back door. Any board member will be able to attend meetings of its audit committee, negating fears arising from the interim report that the non-executives on the audit committee would form a private group, enter a cabal with auditors and second-guess the executives. Shareholders will not have the right to raise queries directly with chairmen of audit and pay committees at annual meetings, as originally suggested. These changes would not matter if the roles of chairman and chief

executive were separated, so that a non-executive chairman leads boardroom discussion and decision-making and can act as the central point of reference for worried shareholders. The committee has avoided any such prescription. This is not surprising, since most top companies do not separate the roles, but it weakens the code where companies have a single wilful boss. That is where much of the trouble has arisen.

The committee also relies heavily on shareholders, overwhelmingly institutional shareholders, to act as monitors and generally look after their own interests. The idea is that the compulsory statement of compliance, or non-compliance, with the code will give them the key to force good practice on the board. If a company does not comply, shareholders will have a ready hook on which to hang demands for change.

In theory, big shareholders have all the power they need, using their own networks to counteract the power of the incumbent board. In several recent cases, they have used it. More often, they do not. Mike Sandland, chairman of the institutional shareholders committee and a member of the Cadbury committee, hopes they will soon be more active, at least in using their votes. He made it equally clear that most institutions did not want to intervene in the affairs of the companies they own, nor do they see non-executives as their representatives. Big investors will rely on non-executives doing their job as part of the unitary board team.

Much non-executive zeal should be unleashed by the introduction of the code next year. Will it last? In the absence of some external point of reference for shareholders and auditors, the danger is that compliance with the code will become a meaningless formality and that, come the next boom, non-executives will change little and a new generation of managerial optimists and ambitious entrepreneurs will make the same mistakes all over again.

Shared power will bring more balance to the board

The following is the text of the Code of Best Practice contained in the Cadbury report:

1. The Board of Directors

1.1 The board should meet regularly, retain full and effective control over the company and monitor the executive management.

1.2 There should be a clearly accepted division of responsibilities at the head of a company, which will ensure a balance of power and authority, such that no one individual has unfettered powers of decision. Where the chairman is also the chief executive, it is essential that there should be a strong and independent element on the board, with a recognised senior member.

1.3 The board should include non-executive directors of sufficient calibre and number for their views to carry significant weight in decisions.

1.4 The board should have a formal schedule of matters specifically reserved to it for decision to ensure that the direction and control of the company is firmly in its hands.

1.5 There should be an agreed procedure for directors in the furtherance of their duties to take independent professional advice if necessary, at the company's expense.

1.6 All directors should have access to the advice of services of the company secretary, who is responsible to the board for ensuring that board proce-

dures are followed and that applicable rules and regulations are complied with. Any question of the removal of the company secretary should be a matter for the whole board.

2. Non-Executive Directors
2.1 Non-executive directors should bring an independent judgement to bear on issues of strategy, performance, resources, including key appointments, and standards of conduct.
2.2 The majority should be independent of management and free from any business or other relationship which could materially interfere with the exercise of their independent judgement, apart from their fees and shareholding. Their fees should reflect the time they commit to the company.

2.3 Non-executive directors should be appointed for specified terms and reappointment should not be automatic.
2.4 Non-executive directors should be selected through a formal process and both this process and their appointment should be a matter for the board as a whole.
3. Executive Directors
3.1 Directors' service contracts should not exceed three years without shareholders' approval.
3.2 There should be full and clear disclosure of directors' total emoluments and those of the chairman and highest-paid UK director, including pension contributions and stock options. Separate figures should be given for salary and performance-related elements and the basis on which performance is measured explained.
3.3 Executive directors' pay should be subject to the recommendations of a remuneration committee made up wholly or mainly of non-executive directors.
4. Reporting and Controls
4.1 It is the board's duty to present a balanced and understandable assessment of the company's position.
4.2 The board should ensure that an objective and professional relationship is maintained with the auditors.
4.3 The board should estab-

lish an audit committee of at least three non-executive directors with written terms of reference which deal clearly with its authority and duties.
4.4 The directors should explain their responsibility for preparing the accounts next to a statement by the auditors about their reporting responsibilities.
4.5 The directors should report on the effectiveness of the company's system of internal control.
4.6 The directors should report that the business is a going concern, with supporting assumptions or qualifications as necessary.
*Items to be reviewed by the auditors.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Unigate gotta lotta bottle

A NEW audit procedure of customer payments by dairy group Unigate - checking up on the milkmen's returns - has left some people wondering if the dairy food group has found a new way of boosting profits. As part of the procedure, Unigate "randomly" selects a milk round for investigation and sends customers statements to confirm outstanding payments. Unfortunately, its survey of Wimbledon milkmen mistakenly resulted in 100 customers suddenly receiving somewhat random requests for thousands of pounds with their daily pinta yesterday. One customer, Duncan Robertson, who settles with his milkman weekly, received a bill of £4,216 for orders since Saturday. "Since Saturday, I've had four pints of milk and two cartons of orange juice. It seems a bit steep," he said. Unigate's Walton-on-Thames office, which sent out the letters says it was all a clerical mistake. "The administrator forgot to include a decimal Cuddihy explains.

Santa Matthews

SOME people will do anything to escape office Christmas parties. Charles Macleod Matthews, international salesman at Panmure Gordon, has signed up with a charity called Serious Road Trip and is set to lead a convoy of 20 trucks through Serbian Muslims stranded near Sarajevo. Previous experience in the Royal Dragoons, where he gained the necessary HGV licence,



and time spent transporting students across Africa as a driver for Encounter Overland, the tour operator, have helped prepare him - but not for everything. "The British troops will supply a Warrior armoured car but we have to stay within a foot of the truck in front so we can't be shot at and the co-driver has been instructed to lie flat on the truck floor," Macleod Matthews reports. Understood, he sets out this Sunday from Kings Cross. "I hope to be back by Christmas but you can't be sure."

People problem

THE tables have suddenly been turned at Smythe Dorward Lambert, the corporate communications specialist, which is having a corporate communications problem of its own. Three years ago it lost the Lambert leg of its name when Andrew Lambert went off to help TSB with its corporate thinking. Now Lambert, 41, has joined People in Business and John Smythe and Colette Dorward suddenly find themselves with a company whose name includes

that of someone working for their chief rival. Smythe says he is not disturbed and intends no name changes. "Absolutely not," he says. "Rolls didn't drop the Royce just because Royce died. We see it as a powerful brand, not just a collection of people." Lambert, not surprisingly, says he prefers a brand name that is not a collection of surnames.

Poor law

A ROW has broken out among lawyers amid calls for the Law Society to scrap its minimum wage for arid clerks - or "trainee solicitors" as they are now called. The society introduced the minimum wage, now £12.150 in inner London, and £10.850 in the provinces, in 1985. But now there are 1,400 candidates seeking articles with only 20 or 30 places available at any one time and a growing number of lawyers thinks the minimum wage is stopping solicitors from taking on students. The Law Society has put out a consultative paper asking solicitors for their views but the idea of scrapping the minimum wage will be resisted by some big City names. Paul Salmon, partner of top City solicitors Mishcon De Reya, agrees there is an abundance of talent - his firm received 700 applications for seven places - but says the minimum wage should stay. "Solicitors don't need to pay as much as us," says Salmon, whose partnership pays £17,000 to trainees. "But the law has always been called a rich man's profession and if you say people can work for virtually nothing to get in, then it will be again."

DEBRA ISAAC

A little more generosity is needed

From W. F. Elgin
Sir, I recently received a letter from an Assurance Company with which I hold a whole-of-life policy expressing pleasure at being able to inform me that the rate of interest on the policy loans was being reduced to 9 1/2 per cent.

I have no doubt they were pleased at charging 2 1/2 per cent over bank rate to policyholders for lending them what is ultimately their own money in circumstances involving no risk to the lender. As good if not better rates are available from my bank and I would have expected an assurance company to exhibit a little more generosity to their members, particularly a mutual company. There was a time

when the same company gave a very preferential rate to its policyholders; while that could be regarded as giving an undue preference to certain members it was always open to other members to avail themselves of the same opportunity.

I can't surrender the policy as the incidence of terminal bonus would cause horrendous sacrifice. Interest on the loan is not tax-deductible, but any income from loan money invested would be (where is the logic?). So I am frustrated in my intention of alleviating the depression by going on a wild spending spree!
Yours faithfully,
W. F. ELGIN,
Beneil,
Edderston Road, Peebles.

No Sugar substitute

From Mrs P. J. Ackerman
Sir, It is about time an Amstrad shareholder stood up for Alan Sugar. I am a shareholder holding 5,000 shares and whilst I am not happy at accepting 30p, I have resigned my mind to the fact that it is the best offer that I am likely to get. If this offer was so unreasonable then why have I not received a counter offer from some other company wishing to take over Amstrad.

My understanding of the offer sent to me is that if it goes through we will get our money some time in January. Does

Gideon Fiegat who is running this campaign against Alan Sugar have anything better to offer me and will he give me my money in January? If the offer is not accepted, can he tell me how much I am going to get in future? Whilst he may talk for some shareholders who emotionally do not wish to accept Mr Sugar's offer, I am a realist and when told to take the money I look at things commercially and not emotionally, as emotions in this case may cost people money.
Yours faithfully,
P. J. Ackerman,
15/16 Hickman Avenue,
Chingford, E4.

Realistic banking

clearing bank to become a risk partner in a small business in return for overdraft interest of a few points over base rate. Finally, surely there are other clearing banks in his locality? Business is tough these days and you have to learn to vote with your feet.
Yours faithfully,
G. B. R. Harrison,
London Wine Ltd,
Chelsea Wharf,
15 Lots Road, SW10.

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Investors' Cannes-do approach

Christopher Warman on a property exhibition that continues to boom in spite of the international slump

Despite, or perhaps because of, the property slump, which is affecting the rest of the world as badly as Britain, the fourth annual international property exhibition, Mipim, is growing. The numbers expected to attend the exhibition and conference, to take place at the Palais des Festivals in Cannes from March 13 to 16, are already up on this time last year.

"We believe the market is even more important at this crisis time, and the aim is to help companies identify the ways in which they can fight the difficulties," says Xavier Roy, the chief executive of Midem, the international trade show organisation under whose umbrella Mipim has grown since it was first staged in 1990.

"Apart from investors, property was a collection of national markets, and even the big developers operated on a national basis," Mr Roy says. "So we spent over a year researching into this gap in the market and found there was a lot of interest, particularly from England and Spain."

The 1993 conference pro-

gramme includes a day-long seminar on the consequences of the Maastricht Treaty, and the effect of the single European market on the property market. There are also debates on the property market crisis, concluding with a session on "how to take advantage of a crisis".

Mipim is steadily attracting new participants. At this year's conference, eastern Europe was represented by an umbrella organisation: next year, individual countries will attend. Representatives from Austria, Turkey and Mexico are travelling to Cannes for the first time, and there will be sessions on the prospects for development in the emerging markets of Turkey and Portugal.

British agents and law firms will be there in force again, as well as developers, local authorities and urban development corporations. Trafford Park Development Corporation, for the first time, joins others, including Central Manchester, Positively Belfast, Black Country, Leeds and East Kilbride, who hope to attract investment. Another debutant is Tarmac Europe, one of Europe's top five building companies.

"The British have been most supportive, and I have been greatly impressed by the way in which, when they are faced with today's difficulties, they roll their sleeves up and do something about it," Mr Roy says.

French, German, American and Spanish professionals are strongly represented, and the organisers are also hoping that they may be able to entice participation from southeast Asia, which they see as an active



When you wish upon a star: Robert Fitzpatrick, left, receives the Mipim man of the year award

market that could be of benefit to, as well as benefit from Mipim.

The conference will discuss international trends in architecture, and will examine whether the property markets of France, Spain and the UK can be implanted in eastern Europe.

There is one other important

activity at Mipim: the doing of deals. The parties involved are discreet about such business, at least until it is completed.

And each year, Mipim selects its "man of the year". This year it was Robert Fitzpatrick, president of EuroDisney, near Paris.

He was selected for this award

because of his role in the construction of the resort, promoting cross-border partnerships. He must wish that the fantasy world had in reality attracted more customers in its first year of operation, but as an example of an international enterprise, it could scarcely be bettered.

Pacific offers broad horizons

A new report recommends Asia as an area of rapid growth for the 1990s

The Pacific Rim remains the most dynamic region in the world, according to Dr Ed Shann in the latest Pacific Rim Property Report by Baillieu Knight Frank.

Dr Shann says that despite the present difficulties facing Japan, the economies of other Asian countries with coastlines on the Pacific are very robust.

The concern about Japan's economic downturn is reflected in the assessment of Mitsuru Saito, of BPR's Tokyo office.

Land values in Tokyo have fallen from their peak of 1989-90 by 30 to 40 per cent, and according to Saito, "it is anticipated that they will fall further during the next few months". With office rents leveling off, and in some cases falling, the banks are considering intervention to buy bad or non-performing loans with the hope of revitalising the sluggish property market.

By contrast, Malaysia anticipates large-scale investment and development, including a new airport, as a result of winning the right to stage the Commonwealth Games in 1998. The Kuala Lumpur property market looks set for expansion, retail space could double over the next five years, and twin 85-storey towers will increase office space by 5.5 million sq ft.

The market in Singapore is robust. Retail rent is down and over-supply in the office sector has pushed rentals down by about 20 per cent since the end of 1991.

The construction industry is, however, buoyant with government investment.

In Hong Kong, there are signs of increased office rentals. The price of residential property is considered too high, and domestic and mainland investors and speculators are recognising better potential for higher capital investment in the office sector.

The report says Australia is emerging as "something of a safe haven opportunity". Although the stock market is weak

and a general property recovery would appear to be some way off, yields are at new, historically high levels.

Lower interest rates and property prices mean that it is a good time to buy, with Australian property representing an "excellent countercyclical" opportunity.

As in so many fields, the health of the United States is vital in this business. Concentrating on the San Francisco Bay area, the fourth largest metropolitan region in the US, James Bennett asserts that its economic dynamics offer a very bright future beyond the recession. He says that as the US moves out of recession, the market of the 1990s is likely to follow the pattern of the 1960s and 1970s, rather than the 1980s.

This suggests positive gearing, large pre-leasing to tenants with excellent credit, and little or no value attached to future income growth — altogether a more cautious approach.

C.W.



Tokyo blows Japanese recession is worrying

IN THE MARKET

Ranson builds on trust

Chandos Place, Covent Garden, is the latest scheme to be completed by Christopher Ranson, one of the few private developers to survive the three recessions since he began developing property in London in the early 1970s, Christopher Warman writes.

The 18,000 sq ft office block on the corner of Chandos Place and Bedfordbury also has a penthouse. The scheme has taken 11 years to complete. In return for permission to build the offices on the former Peabody Trust site, Ranson has built 30 flats next door for the Peabody Trust.

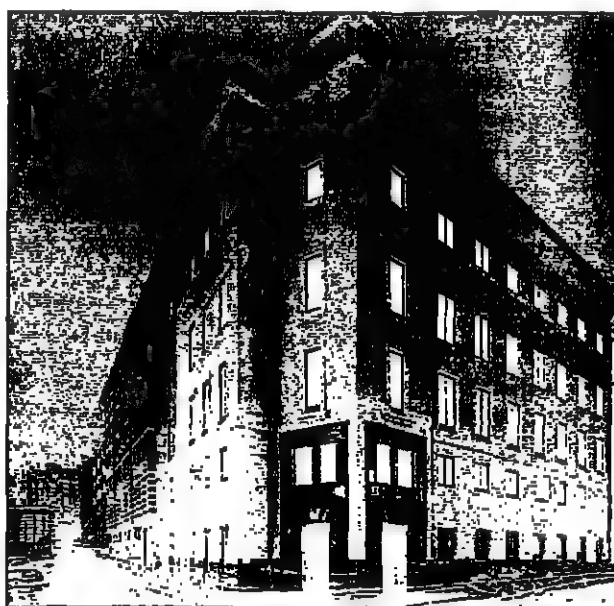
Built in black granite, sandstone and brick, and designed with a European flavour, Chandos Place has independent air-conditioning and central heating on each floor, while all the windows open, in an attempt to avoid "sick building syndrome".

The building is to let through E.A. Shaw at about £30 a sq ft. Mr Ranson says that even in the worst property slump since the second world war, Covent Garden remains notable for the shortage of available good quality office accommodation. "Chandos Place would be ideal for a medium-sized firm looking for a new headquarters, or a larger company's high-profile London office," he says.

Raymond's review PAUL RAYMOND, reputedly Britain's richest man, has made a significant move into King's Road, Chelsea, west London, buying the freehold of number 279 from Atlantic Estates for £2.65 million. This is Mr Raymond's first Chelsea freehold. The property includes the four-screen MGM cinema, Europa Food and Mr Light shops.

Going Dutch HENRIETTA HOUSE at the head of New Bond Street, London W1, is a 96,000 sq ft building on nine floors built by Nationale-Nederlanden NV, the Dutch insurance company, and Lynton plc. This landmark building is the Dutch company's first development in this country.

Henrietta House BDP is designed by architects Wood



Chandos Place: a development which provides homes



Henrietta House: corporate headquarters in West End

which have received awards from the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts and the Royal Society for the Arts. It is one of the very few new developments available in the West End suitable as an international headquarters for corporate occupiers, and has a quoted rent of £4.75 million a year (£49 a sq ft) through Sinclair Goldsmith, Hesley & Baker and Jones Lang Wootton.

Sloane arranger WORK has begun on a development at 60 Sloane Avenue, Chelsea — one of the few construction starts in the

West End this year. The scheme is designed by YRM/Stanton Williams. It will have 77,000 sq ft of offices with 36,000 sq ft of retail and a restaurant in a development by the Swedish investor, John Mattson Fastighets AB, funded by Svenska Handelsbanken and due for completion in July 1994.

The facade of the existing building, a neo-classical terracotta edifice known as Clearing III, designed for Harrods in 1911, will be retained and integrated with a contemporary design.

A model and drawings of the scheme can be seen at an

exhibition at the RIBA of YRM/Stanton Williams designs. Ewen Hill of Jones Lang Wootton, agents with Egerton, say the building will be in a position to benefit from the anticipated shortage of space in 1994.

Leeds benefits

THE government Benefits Agency is moving to Trevelyan Square, Leeds, in the second stage of its relocation from London, representing the biggest single letting in the city this year.

The agency has taken 19,900 sq ft in this £25 million development by MEPC, after the Department of the Environment acquired a 25-year lease at close to the asking rent of £20 a sq ft.

Trevelyan Square and the adjoining Ambler House offer a total of 72,000 sq ft of offices.

Scottish peak

THE APEX 123 office building in the Haymarket, Edinburgh, has been sold to the Antler Property Group for about £16 million, the biggest property investment transaction in Scotland this year.

The 95,000 sq ft building is let to Scottish Enterprise, the Scottish Education Department, Edinburgh Fund Managers, and Abbey National. The vendor, Union Discount Bank, is providing a rental guarantee for the remaining 18,000 sq ft.

London campaign

FOLLOWING the sale of the riverside building at County Hall, the London Residuary Body (LRB), through Richard Ellis, is to launch a marketing campaign for the remainder of the site, targeting buyers in the Far East, North America and continental Europe.

The remainder of the 12.5-acre site includes the north and south office blocks, the island block and the Addition Street site, with a total of nearly 700,000 sq ft. The LRB has planning permission for the replacement of the north and south blocks with an office and retail development of 1,260,000 sq ft, designed to complement the riverside setting. The island block would be demolished.

The riverside building, formerly the home of the now defunct Greater London Council, is to be converted into a 600-bedroom hotel.

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Their fingers on a million pulses

Britain's magazines have a huge effect on what we buy and how we live. Jane Reed reports on some surprising best-sellers

They are big, mean, tough and they will fight to hang on to their territory. They have arguably as much — or more — influence on our everyday lives as the big supermarkets, and yet they rarely make the A lists of glossy publishing parties. They are the editors of Britain's biggest-selling magazines.

Not for them the effete splendour of niche markets, or the need for endless rounds of high-profile interviews. With a million-plus readers, these money machines are the same as any other Fast Moving Consumer Goods, and their readers are "consumers".

A slip in their readership ratings could herald commercial disaster; when that happens an army of suits moves in, as they would if Heinz's share of the baked bean market started to wobble.

And market share is what it's all about. Nigel Davidson, managing director of the giant weekly magazine group within IPC, says: "What's the point of being big if you can't use your size? You have to have a good share of the market to get your share of advertisement sales." He says his six women's titles hold 43 per cent of the weeklies market, even though *Bella* and *Take a Break*, the two German titles from Bauer, have taken pole position in terms of circulation. But maintaining that market takes steady-eyed management.

IPC identifies 28 market sectors in which it operates. Taken somewhat by surprise by some very real competition from home and abroad, the company now has a clear-cut, logical strategy for each market, and will look at very little outside that strategy. There is much talk now of "strategic" and "cluster" publishing.

A classic example of this is *TV Times*. With the profits from its duopoly (with *Radio Times*) threatened by deregulation of television listings, IPC launched the slightly more downmarket and programme-orientated *What's On TV*. Less than two years later the new arrival is outselling the traditional title, and together their share dominates the television listings

market, although *Radio Times* on its own outsells each of them.

Of the 32 main market sectors described by The Media Factor for the year to June 1992, Reed/IPC has seven market leaders in terms of readership. Emap has six and the BBC has four. The biggest readership of any magazine in the UK is that of *Sunday* magazine (free, but an integral part of the *News of the World* package on Sunday). After that come *Radio Times* and *You* magazine (part of *The Mail on Sunday*), then *Reader's Digest*, *TV Times*, *Woman's Own* and *Viz*.

It is arguable that editors of these big magazines play a less influential role than do the editors of smaller-circulation titles. The skills of the publisher and the production, marketing, finance, circulation and advertising executives all contribute just as much to the overall achievements. As Keith McNeill, editor of *Woman's Own* says: "There is no room for a loose cannon at this level."

If proof were needed, Bauer actually forbids its editors to talk to the press or be photographed. (But any PR who doesn't recognise them should seriously consider giving up the day job.)

Described here are the market leaders in the four biggest categories, plus others that have a circulation of more than a million.

NEWSPAPERS

SUNDAY
Publisher: News International.
Editor: Sue Carroll, former woman's editor and assistant editor of *The Sun*.
Circulation: 4,771,000. Page of colour advertising: £30,000.
Readership: 11,926,000. More colourful and glossy since its relaunch under new editor and publishing team in 1990.

RADIO TIMES

Publisher: BBC Enterprises.
Editor: Nicholas Brett, since 1988. Formerly features editor of *The Times*.

Circulation: 1,574,000. Page of colour advertising: £17,100.
Readership: 5,894,000. A broadcasting magazine rather than a magazine with broadcasting details. Editor says the free listing guides have not affected his circulation; but if not, where did 1.5 million copy sales go to since 1990? Nevertheless, it is the individual winner following deregulation of listings information: vulnerable to other listings titles and *Reader's Digest* in advertisement share.

GENERAL INTEREST

READER'S DIGEST
Editor: Russell Twisk, former editor of *The Listener* and deputy editor of *Radio Times*.
Circulation: 1,475,000. Page of colour advertising: £19,500.
Readership: 5,807,000. Following heavy incentive selling, 90 per cent is sold on subscription. Unique editorial package which *Mr Twisk* says will overtake *Radio Times* in the next six months.

WOMEN'S WEEKLIES

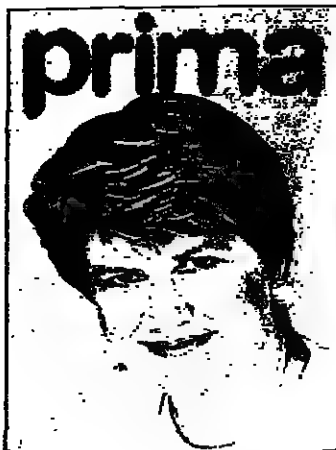
WOMAN'S OWN
Publisher: Reed/IPC.
Editor: Keith McNeill, former deputy editor, magazine and newspaper editor and writer.
Circulation: 701,000. Page of colour advertising: £25,000.
Readership: 4,185,000. One of the "classic four" at IPC and gradually restyled to compete more closely with *Take a Break*, which has almost twice the circulation. However, *Bella's* readership has yet to catch up. Bauer's *Bella* also sells more than a million, and is within a whisker of *Woman's Own's* readership. Mr McNeill sees weekly and monthly women's titles becoming more dissimilar.

WOMEN'S MONTHLIES

PRIMA
Publisher: Gruner & Jahr.
Editor: Sue James for past five years. Previously deputy editor.
Circulation: 723,000. Page of colour advertising: £15,225.
Readership: 2,494,000. First of



Keith McNeill



Sue James



Adam Pasco



Nicholas Brett



Terence Whelan



Russell Twisk



Marcelle D'Argy Smith



Chris Donald

the new generation formula titles from Germany. Practical, domestic and inspirational. Competes with *Essentials*, *Family Circle* and *Good Housekeeping*.

HOME/INTEREST

IDEAL HOME
Publisher: Reed/IPC.
Editor: Terence Whelan, formerly art editor, with the title for 26 years. Circulation: 232,000. Page of colour advertising: £7,432.
Readership: 1,871,000. Newcomer *House Beautiful* has overtaken *Ideal Home* in sales, but readership will take some time to catch up. *Ideal Home* is suburban aspirational with visual indulgence and major practical sections.

TEENAGE/POP

SMASH HITS
Publisher: Emap.
Editor: Mike Souter. Appointed editor at 24 in 1988. Previously press officer at Virgin Records.
Circulation: 346,000. Page of colour advertising: £13,300.
Readership: 1,195,000. Circulation halved since its heyday in the

1980s, but still the most popular news, features, songwords and poster-driven pop title.

MOTORING

WHAT CAR
Publisher: Haymarket.
Editor: Ralph Morton appointed this year, joined in 1986.
Circulation: 144,000. Page of colour advertising: £5,900.
Readership: 2,085,000. Helps people choose their next car.

FOOD

GOOD FOOD
Publisher: BBC Enterprises.
Editor: Sarah Jane Evans: formerly deputy editor and specialist writer on Spanish food.
Circulation: 516,000. Page of col-

our advertising: £11,064.
Readership: 1,848,000. Material mostly programme-based, but content is expanding.

HAIR & BEAUTY

HAIR
Publisher: IPC.
Editor: Annette Dennis has been with the magazine since 1978.
Circulation: 157,000. Page of colour advertising: £3,460.
Readership: 1,231,000 per month; mostly 15 to 34-year-old women. High readership per copy due to salon readership.

GOLF

GOLF MONTHLY
Publisher: Reed/IPC.
Editor: Colin Callander, since 1990.
Circulation: 78,000. Page of colour advertising: £2,910.
Readership: 1,080,000. No quick golf cures, Mr Callander says, but basic fundamentals of good golf. *Golf World* and *Today's Golfer* sell more copies, but *Monthly* is read by more than these two put together.

Source: Media Factor, NIS, ABC.

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BBC BBC BBC

Head of Religious Broadcasting

The BBC wishes to appoint a Head of Religious Broadcasting to set up and lead a new bi-media Religious Programmes Department, based in Manchester. This appointment follows the BBC's decision to move its Radio and Television Religious programming from London to its Manchester centre.

The successful candidate will be editorially responsible for all Network Radio and Television religious output, and for devising and defining the BBC's policy and strategy in this vitally important area of programming. The new Head will lead the successful transfer of the two teams to Manchester, and will be expected to devise imaginative plans for the thorough integration of both departments in their new home.

In our multi-faith society, the Head of Religious Broadcasting will be the main point of contact with all outside bodies, churches and faiths, and will represent the BBC at the Central Religious Advisory Committee. He or she will be managerially responsible to the Head of Broadcasting in the North, editorially responsible with him to the Channel Controllers in Radio and Television, and will report to the Director-General on matters of religious broadcasting policy and strategy.

It is expected that candidates will have a thorough grasp of current theological and religious issues, a proven track record in programme production at a senior level, preferably in both radio and television, and first class managerial skills.

Salary for this post, which will be based in Manchester, will be according to qualifications and experience.

To apply, please send cv, together with a statement of the strategy you would deploy to establish successfully the new bi-media department and to develop and uphold the highest possible standards in religious programme output, to Helen Griffiths, Chief Personnel Officer, Regional Broadcasting, BBC, Room 5260, 201 Wood Lane, London W12 7TS, to arrive by December 14th.

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You will have an impressive track record of achievement in marketing and business management, planning and development, preferably gained in a large multi-disciplinary service oriented organisation. Creativity, entrepreneurial flair and commercial acumen are crucial together with drive, initiative and the proven ability to lead whilst remaining an effective team player.

For an application pack please contact: Rachel Hardy, Personnel Department, Greenwich Health Authority, Memorial Hospital, Shooters Hill, London SE18 3PZ. Tel: 001 312 6467.

Closing date for receipt of completed applications: 21st December 1992.

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Build links with established media organisations, international law firms, and governments in North America, Europe, and elsewhere.

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The director must combine proven ability to raise funds in the US and Europe; extensive journalistic experience in the US and Europe; wide contacts among journalists, press and security analysts, academics, governments plus US/international institutions; and knowledge of the Balkans.

Coordinator, Balkan Media Resource Centre.

Salary 13,500

IWPR is a conflict-monitoring organisation. IWPR seeks coordinator for its Balkan Media Resource Centre.

The coordinator will:

Link a network of independent press in ex-Yugoslavia and establish a multi-lingual computer based electronic bulletin board system.

Select and translate articles into English from Slovenian, Serbian and Croatian (Serbo-Croat), Macedonian.

Consult and conduct research and reporting on the Balkans for international media organisations.

Write articles on the Balkans for the IWPR bulletin War Report.

The applicant must have regional expertise and relevant linguistic skills, and recent journalistic experience in and contacts in all republics of ex-Yugoslavia. Existing contacts with the international, especially English-language media, are also essential.

Please Reply to Box No 0028

THE TIMES

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Telcor International, a division of a US \$250,000,000 family of telecommunications companies, is seeking a London-based Sales Director to establish a network of sales agents throughout Europe and to sell to multinational companies with large business traveller employee bases. The position requires 8+ years of experience in sales and sales management with a proven track record of success in marketing to European businesses. Fluency in a second or third language would be quite beneficial, though not required.

Please forward replies to:

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CITY OF DRAMA

Greater Manchester has been awarded City of Drama as part of the Arts Council Arts 2000 initiative. In order to make the year a success we need to raise funds from the commercial sector. We therefore, wish to appoint a:

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POP page 30

Jason Donovan is
touring Britain to
acclaim from his fans,
but not our reviewer

ARTS

DANCE page 31

Sir Frederick Ashton: is
his legacy to be lost to
the ballet audiences of
future generations?



ARCHITECTURE: Marcus Binney on the green and pleasant work of the British company Arup Associates

Home is where the headquarters are

Sir Philip Dowson exudes gravitas. It is not only his height and his high forehead but his intensity. "I believe deeply that the manner in which things are made is important," he says. He abhors the current fashion for cladding buildings in a veneer of marble or granite. If stone is used it must be load-bearing. "I find Henry VIII's Chapel in Westminster Abbey... difficult," he says, referring to the showmanship of the fan vaults which mark the high point of Perpendicular.

"I love classical architecture because at its best it was rigorous both intellectually and constructionally," he continues. Intriguingly, the search for a contemporary language in architecture is leading his practice, Arup Associates, to a distinctly classical style: not pastiche, but columns used in a thoroughly contemporary way, without classical trimmings of any kind. Their latest building at Kingswood in Surrey, for Legal and General, has a giant colonnade as pronounced as that of the famous forest of columns along the Caernarfon Palace in Wales.

Dowson's newest partner, Yann Weymouth, chief architect for the Louvre Pyramid under I.M. Pei, elaborates: "We are modern, yet not modernist. We are classical, yet not classicist. We don't pull out the Palladio prints."

Don Ferguson, who was principally responsible for the Legal and General building, has a theory of 20th-century architecture. "Before 1939 an interesting combination of modernist space and classical composition was emerging, notably under Asplund in Sweden. But the war interrupted this, and afterwards buildings had to be pared down because of shortages."

All this might be rather dry but for the element that transforms so many Arup Associates buildings — planting. Not just vegetation around the building, but greenery growing up facades and cascading down. Their Wiggins Teape building in Basingstoke is a modern version of the hanging gardens of Babylon, with every level looking out over the large, luxuriantly planted terrace.

Ferguson explains: "I am a farmer's son, and Arups work closely with nurserymen. To us, landscaping is not part of the architectural service, it is the point from which we start."

Dowson expands: "I've always seen landscape as architecture. I have a theory that the earliest gardens were designed as external rooms. Next to the Petit Trianon [at Versailles] is a tiny formal garden, a 150 feet square at the most, a box in a box. The inner box has the same sort of privacy

as a church — a wonderful sense of peace."

Perhaps it was Dowson's training as a mathematician that led the great engineer, the late Sir Ove Arup, to turn to him when he decided to set up Arup Associates to run in tandem with his worldwide engineering practice. "Ove believed in a concept of total architecture," says Ferguson. So Arup Associates is multi-disciplinary, combining architects, environmentalists, economists, planners, traffic and civil engineers.

Initially, Dowson says, much of their work was at universities. "Then this was overtaken by commissions for company headquarters. It involved us working closely with the Tavistock Institute on Human Relations. Moving people from lots of buildings into one produced

'To us, landscaping is not just part of the architectural service, it is the point from which we start'

traumas." Staff, they found, were often upset by change, especially in the arrangement of their personal office space.

At first Dowson avoided involvement in the speculative office boom. "I didn't see how it could produce architecture." But Arups tested the water with 1 Finsbury Avenue in the City of London, a darkened glass box which has supreme elegance thanks to the slenderness of all the metal parts. The same cannot be said of their subsequent massive development at Broadgate, much of which is overbearing and repetitive, despite the attractive cascade of greenery in the amphitheatre.

However, Arup Associates' two latest ventures mark a determined attempt to set new standards in comfort for the office worker. One had the advantage of a green-field site on the edge of Peterborough, the other of a green-belt site in Surrey (building permission had been given in the 1950s for another building on that site). Both are for insurance companies.

The Royal Life building at Peterborough has been wickily dubbed "the bunker" because of its immensely long, bare-brick south front, punctuated only by a glazed screen over the entrance. Shutting out the sun — and south views over

the countryside — seems mean. But then you enter and discover the spacious internal street running the length of the building and lit from above, like an artist's studio with north light bounced off a billowing white sail roof.

At Legal and General, Ferguson goes one further. The whole exterior and both courtyards are designed as one continuous pergola. The first glimpse takes the breath away simply because, in suburban Surrey, it is so monumental. You approach up a long straight drive, aligned directly on the front door, past walled enclosures concealing the car parks. Here is the one serious flaw: service vehicles disappear down an ugly service ramp right in the middle of the grand approach. Unusually, the drop-off point is a good 30 yards from the main entrance doors. "The clients wanted to avoid the usual clutter of cars waiting at the entrance," says Ferguson. Instead you walk through a large, formal rose garden up to an elegant entrance rotunda.

The genius of the building is that it provides a genuine and beautiful rationale for modern colonnades. The columns screen the all-glass walls from the view of residents near by, and also stop offices overheating when the sun comes out. Potential monotony is neatly avoided by the treatment of the corners: indented planes of brickwork, reminiscent of Soane. Each carries a trio of belvedere which constantly regroup as you walk around. Their table-like design is strangely reminiscent of the traditional wind towers of houses in the Gulf, where Arups have done a lot of work.

Inside, though the finishes are far from expensive — white plaster walls and terrazzo floors — the generosity of space seems almost palatial. Instead of continuous open plan, Ferguson decided to create a series of salons, each containing about 40 to 50 people. But in future he senses "there will be a return to individual cellular offices; in Scandinavia and California it is proving a sure way of recruiting staff".

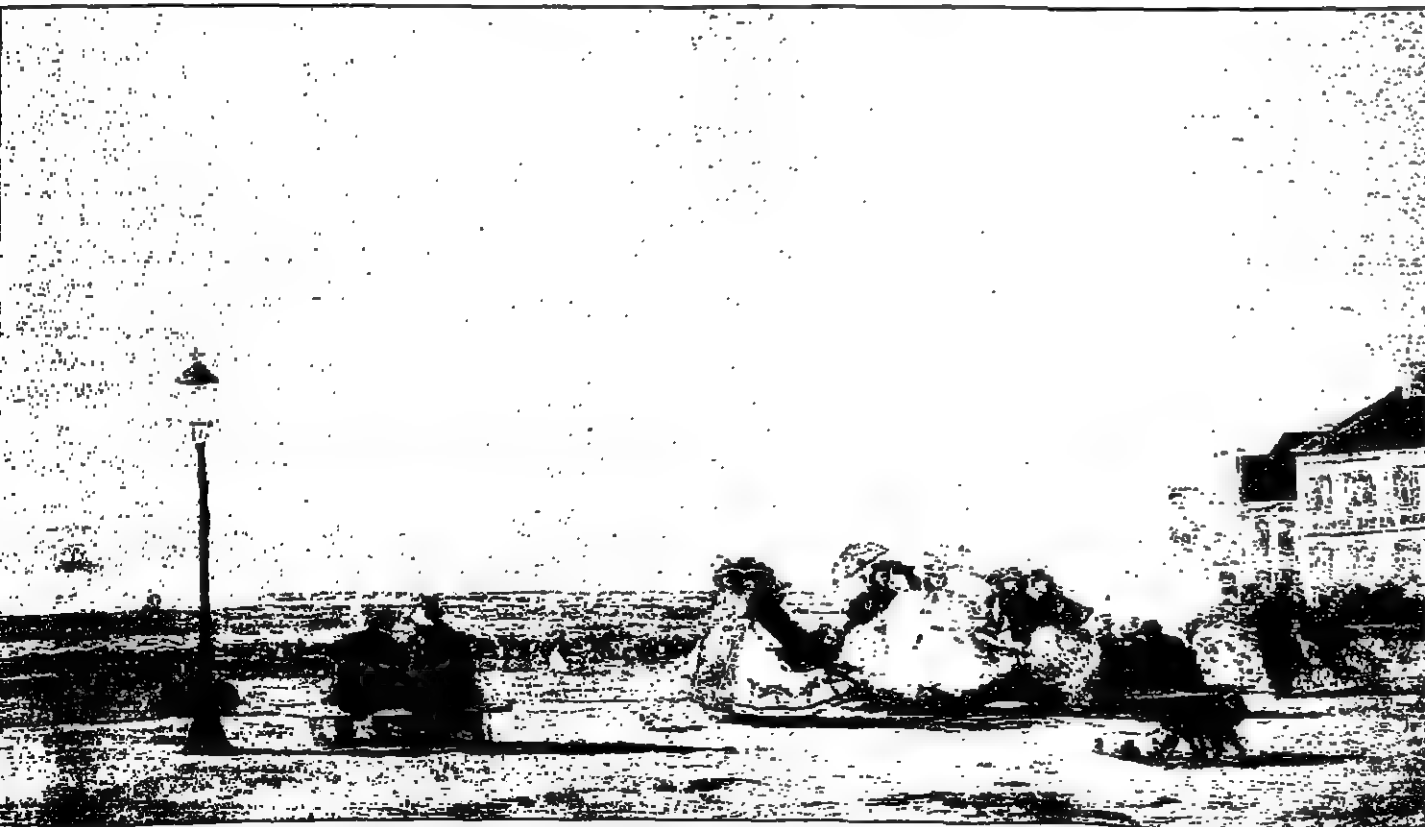
Ferguson explains that Arups avoid drawings. "We always use models. Here at Kingswood we put up scaffolding and filled it with plywood painted a strong yellow so we could decide on the exact proportions that would be acceptable in the landscape." So how does he begin the design process? The answer comes in one word: argue. "Clients are sometimes surprised that we have nothing on paper in the early stages. But between ourselves we have a visual shorthand. Once the design is agreed it takes shape within days."



The Legal and General building at Kingswood: "monotony is neatly avoided by the treatment of the corners"

GALLERIES: John Russell Taylor takes a promenade with a 'petit maitre'

A minor master on the beach



"Infinitely variable play of sunshine and cloud, wind and calm": The Beach at Trouville — the Empress Eugénie by Eugene Boudin

The French have a certain fixed approach to the categorisation of artists that does not necessarily do even their own artist good. However much an artist such as Eugene Boudin may be admired, on a certain level, he can never quite escape the damning with faint praise implicit in the label, "Petit Maitre". Earlier this year, Honfleur, his birth place, came up with an enormous show (more than 300 works) detailing every aspect of his career. Obviously, it was confined to Honfleur. The Louvre, which owns an unrivalled collection of Boudin sketches and works on paper, declined to take the show on: perhaps the thinking was that he was, after all, only a *petit maitre*, so why, except for local pride, should anyone be really interested?

Happily, where Paris failed, Glasgow has stepped in. Following the Burrell Collection principle of expanding, for its loan shows, on artists already strongly represented

in the collection, Vivien Hamilton has organised, and written the lively and scholarly catalogue for, Boudin at Trouville. As the title implies, this concentrates entirely on one aspect of Boudin's work, and thereby gains immensely in sharpness of focus. The geographical limitation to the fashionable resort of Trouville does not mean a chronological limitation also, since Boudin worked along quite a short stretch of the Normandy coast throughout his working life, with only occasional forays to Paris, Holland and elsewhere.

Not only that, but the beach at Trouville provides the scene for most of Boudin's most famous paintings. If people remember anything about Boudin, apart from that he discovered signs of talent in a 15-year-old schoolboy caricaturist called Monet, and encouraged him to take up painting, it is a fleeting image of Second Empire glamour, crinolines on the plage against a background of sparkling summer

sky and sea. This was indeed one of his favourite recurrent subjects, with the advantage of being ready to hand, congenial to a painter whose main interest was the play of light and shade, and readily saleable with all.

The Honfleur show indicated that Boudin was a much more versatile painter than normally supposed. The Glasgow show brings us back to the core of his work, and intensifies response without diminishing overall regard.

Together, the pictures show a systematic exploration, from the 1860s to the 1890s, of how what is essentially the same stock of basic components will be affected by differing weathers and minimal regroupings. The period charm of the society scenes remains intact, but attention is diverted from the topical anecdote to what really interests Boudin, the infinitely variable play of sunshine and cloud, wind and calm. There are in fact so

many "ciel d'orage" pictures that it is tempting to repeat George VI's alleged commiserations with John Piper over the unfortunate amount of romantically overcast weather he seemed to have encountered while painting Windsor. At least the fashionable crowds of Boudin's Trouville, though possibly shivering on the shore, must have had many a visual feast if they had eyes to see it.

There is a freshness and directness, a sensitivity to the passing moment which mark him as far more than a worthy predecessor. Most of the full-blown Impressionists, most of the time, could not reliably do any better. If Boudin is a *petit maitre*, what precisely does a painter need to be recognised as a grand?

Boudin at Trouville continues at The Burrell Collection, Pollok Country Park, Glasgow (041-649 7151). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 11am-5pm, until February 28 (closed Dec 25-Jan 1). Sponsored by Whyte & Mackay Group

Steaming into Chalk Farm from Manchester, with a little luck

THE "National Theatre of the North", as the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester is sometimes known, is set for an expansion period. In 1993, initially thwarted in its attempt to buy the Round House in Chalk Farm as a London "outpost", the theatre is now in negotiation with the Round House's new owners. If these go well, several of next season's productions could move south, bringing at least two gilded performers to Chalk Farm.

Tom Courtenay (see photograph below) is slated to appear with the company in a new piece by the prolific Ronald Harwood: *Poison Pen*. Inspired by the shadowy career of Philip Heseltine, the 1930s music critic who wrote music under the name Peter Warlock, and Vanessa Redgrave — who took a fine production of Ibsen's *Lady from the Sea* from the Royal Exchange to the Round House 15 years ago — will be seen in *Mayday*, a play about McCarthyism by the Russian dramatist Mikhail Shatrov. The plays will open in Manchester on May 13 and July 1 respectively.

UNKNOWN Mozart to be premiered? Up to a point, Lord Copper. The "first public performance in modern times" of a Mozart quartet in E flat for piano, violin, viola and cello will take place at the Wigmore Hall this Saturday, played by the chamber group Domus. But the music may seem familiar to Mozart-lovers, for it is none other than Mozart's celebrated Quintet for Piano and Wind, K452, in another guise. Published as a quartet two years after Mozart's death, it was only brought out in its now familiar quintet version six years later.

Why was the quartet version subsequently overlooked? Heinz Liebrecht, who has supervised a new edition, believes that an ambiguous remark by Mozart's wife, Constanze — that the quartet's publication was done without Mozart's "Zuthum" ("participation") — may have blighted the piece in the eyes of musicologists. The quartet is said to have substantial differences from the quintet.

Courtauld cash

A BRITISH arts institution has been awarded the largest grant made by the J. Paul Getty Grant

Program this year. The Courtauld Institute of Art will receive £200,000 from the Los Angeles-based benefactor to help fund a three-year wall painting conservation course. The institute trains conservationists whose work is in demand all over the world.

Recent projects have included work on late Byzantine wall paintings in Cyprus and a joint project with English Heritage on 13th

ARTS BRIEFING

century wall paintings in Chester Castle. The Courtauld director, Michael Kauffmann, called the award "a magnificent contribution" which will go into a faculty endowment fund.

THE winner of this year's Mobil Playwriting Competition is Simon Burke, a 31-year-old Northumbrian. He has written several dramatic pieces for television, among them two series of *Chancer*, but never before for the stage. His prize is a cheque for £15,000 and the promise of a

production at the Manchester Royal Exchange for his play *The Lodger*, a thriller about an enigmatic character who takes up residence in the house of a security man. The runners-up, each of whom gets £8,000, are Phyllis Nagy for *Disappeared*, about a thrift-shop worker who adopts the persona of the people whose cast-offs he sells, and Colin Sharp for *Halfway*, a comedy about people struggling towards normality in a "halfway house".

Last chance...

SOME groups coast to stardom, but for the road-hardened Faith No More it has been a case of Everest the hard way. Convened in San Francisco ten years ago, their aberrant heavy-metal sound incorporated all sorts of odd extras (such as rap) long before such fusions were fashionable. The pieces finally fell into place in 1990, with the success of their single "Epic". Touring to promote their estimable album *Angel Dust*, they are accompanied by female grunge-rockers L7, finishing with dates at Barrowlands, Glasgow (041-226 4679) tonight, tomorrow and Friday, and Sheffield Arena (0742-565 500) on Saturday.



Tom Courtenay in *The Misanthrope* at the Round House, 1981

rs on! Dreams too precious to forget

The Royal Ballet is celebrating Christmas with the works of Sir Frederick Ashton. But, asks Debra Craine, is it doing enough to preserve the Ashton legacy?

The world of ballet choreography has very few true geniuses. By the time you mention Petipa, Ivanov, Bournonville, Fokine and Balanchine, the list is running out. But not quite: there is still Sir Frederick Ashton.

For more than 50 years, Ashton was the choreographic touchstone of British ballet and the face of our national ballet abroad. Yet ever since his death in 1988, his star has been quietly fading. His works are still presented at Covent Garden, of course: in the 1989-90 season there were three; the following year four; and last season there were five works by the Royal Ballet's founder choreographer. This season there are just three: all of them part of the Christmas schedule at the Royal Opera House.

On Friday, a new double bill will bring together *The Dream*, Ashton's poetic distillation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, with the first stage performance of his 1971 ballet film, *Tales of Beatrix Potter*. On December 23, his full-length *Cinderella* returns to the repertoire. And that's it for the rest of the season.

Some would say this is not much of an airing for the man who choreographed about 80 ballets and defined the Royal style. Covent Garden's sister company, Birmingham Royal Ballet, also has Ashton works in its repertoire, but since his death has presented only six of them. Even more worrying,

many of Ashton's unperformed works are in danger of being lost forever if efforts are not made soon to retrieve them.

Anthony Dowell, the Royal Ballet's artistic director, says there are reasons why the Ashton repertoire was overlooked following his death. "I think that's inevitable," he explains. "I had a living principal choreographer in Kenneth MacMillan and I wanted to get as much from him as I could in the time available. The living have a voice and they keep things alive. We wanted to get as many new works from Kenneth in the short time, as it turned out, that was left to us."

Sadly, MacMillan died in October on the opening night of the revival of his *Mayerling*. So what will happen to Ashton's legacy with MacMillan gone?

To a large extent that depends on the Covent Garden audiences, now that

box-office considerations have become paramount in setting the artistic agenda. *Cinderella* is a traditional Christmas offering at the Opera House, even though it is not as popular with audiences as *The Nutcracker*, while *Tales of Beatrix Potter*—with Peter Rabbit, Mrs Tiggly-Winkle and a supporting cast of fifty bunnies—is, predictably, selling very fast. But, generally speaking, it is not easy to sell Ashton to audiences who prefer the 19th-century Russian classics.

The irony is that while audiences at the Opera House are lukewarm, abroad Ashton is a hot ticket,

especially in America. And foreign promoters routinely ask for his works to be included whenever the Royal Ballet tours overseas.

According to Dowell "there is always a place and time where the world wants the escapism and beauty" that Ashton offers. However, most of Ashton's works are one-act, a form notoriously difficult to sell at Covent Garden. Even his splendid 1948 *Scenes de ballet*, set to Stravinsky, shamefully failed to achieve big box office when it was presented in the 1990-91 season.

Still, those all-important budget considerations permitting, Dowell has a couple of Ashton revivals up his sleeve. "I want to get *Daphnis and Chloe* back." But future revivals will have to be chosen judiciously. "We have to consider whether

they would really work on these dancers and where we are in 1992," he says. "We need to find a balance of going down memory lane where it is also good for Fred's memory and also for the artists here, too. Besides, he wasn't always happy to see his work revived. I had a battle royal with him over *Ondine*; he was very worried about it being seen again."

The 1988 revival of *Ondine*, just months before the choreographer's death, was one of Dowell's most important achievements in his six years as artistic director. Yet, despite the fact that it is a full-length narrative ballet, *Ondine*, too, failed to sell at the box office in the kind of large numbers *Swan Lake* gets.

Along with audiences, some of today's dancers also have a prob-

lem identifying with Ashton's special qualities. Now more versed in the exhaustive physicality and dramatic abandon demanded by the works of MacMillan, they no longer possess the technical modesty and sense of style needed to do Ashton justice. He came from a world in which ladies wore white gloves and tight-waisted frocks; in his ballets, women—as exemplified by Margot Fonteyn—were elegant, mysterious and alluring, never flashy technicians.

"I think that a lot of young dancers today do not have the chic and style he required," says Bruce Sansom, the Royal's leading male interpreter of the Ashton repertoire. "In the past style and chic were more inherent in dancers. People could be much more individual

and still be part of a group. "There is much more *jolie de vivre* within his choreography that's slightly gone now and that's a shame. Dancers need to be encouraged to enjoy it. I see the facility today to dance his work but I don't necessarily see the desire."

Dancers also do not see the definitive Ashton interpreters in action: Fonteyn is dead; Antoinette Sibley, Lynn Seymour and Dowell have all stopped dancing the roles they created, although they are coaching a new generation of Ashton interpreters.

"He was so utterly musical, so very warm, he dealt with the heart all the time," says Sibley, who is coaching *The Dream*, in which she created the role of Titania in 1964. "And he was about purity. He

pared everything down like a perfume: you got just the essence of it. And even if he was telling of an unhappy or awkward situation it still came through as something beautiful, never ugly. His work was so elegant, so charming."

Nicola Roberts, who is dancing both Titania and Cinderella, believes his charm and quaintness are qualities that audiences can still respond to. "Ballets like *Mayerling* are heavy; they're about real people," she says. "Ashton is much more about a fantasy world. His work is like going to the movies—a world complete in itself. It touches you, but you won't go away drained."

● *The Dream* and *Tales of Beatrix Potter* opens at the Royal Opera House (071-240 1066) on Friday



Sir Frederick Ashton (left), and, above, his perfect distillation of Shakespeare: Anthony Dowell, Antoinette Sibley and Alexander Grant as Bottom in *The Dream*

TELEVISION REVIEW

Bed and circuses

Any daughter who, through no fault of her own, is unfortunate enough to inherit the facial features of Leonid Brezhnev probably has a right to regard life as a continuation of revenge by other means. Galina Brezhnev looks like Leonid with blue eyeshadow and a ponytail.

Even so, what should we make of last night's *First Tuesday: Brezhnev's Daughter* (ITV)? Was it an acute-angle insight into the grimace and dimness of Soviet life under Brezhnev? A wine-making portrait of a drunk? A freak show? A morality tale to remind us that those bullies who screw people, literally and metaphorically, eventually always get their comeuppance and then quickly realise that when they lose their clout they also lose their charm? Probably a bit of each.

Galina Brezhnev was once 30 and dressed to the nines.

Joe Joseph on the grotesque fall from grace of one of the celebrities of Soviet communism

but now 63 and dressed by tentmakers. She is a sometime circus performer, the three-married star of Moscow's celebrity scene in the Sixties, when she was as thirsty for sex as her fellow Russians were for tea.

But it was when she turned to the cameras and promised, "I'm a shy person really," that you felt that this woman had gone so far round the bend that even strong bleach couldn't reach her. Needless to say, any viewer with the slightest decency would have averted his eyes, but of course the carnival was too gruesome to miss.



The Soviet family Brezhnev: Leonid's daughter Galina (in the white blouse) is standing with her then husband

Obviously, Leonid was not the first man who could control an empire but not his daughter, a poor little rich girl who measured out her life in champagne flutes and who, like her father, cultivated yes men, but of a rather different sort. "He gave me everything," she says of her pa. "Anything I wanted! He would say 'for god's sake, have it!'"

Such scenes of maudlin reminiscence, often by champagne brought in by the television crew (at one point she threatens to abandon filming if the production team fails to deliver fresh supplies, make you wonder who was the more pathetic: the corrupt and blinkered father who was found in the end to have control neither of his country nor his daughter, or Galina, who had no idea how to grab happiness?)

Her first two husbands were circus artists: a strong man and a magician. Her second marriage lasted only a week. Her third hubby was jailed in Siberia. The diamond-dealing boyfriend who took his place was soon arrested by the KGB for speculating on the black market.

Although she has retained her fifth-floor flat in a block reserved for the old communist elite, she has been stripped of her privileges. She is a social outcast, shunned and laughed at even by her own family and friends. They nickname her "Galka Hooliganka", Galina the Hooligan.

"They insult me. I shake when the telephone rings. They tell me filth. They want to strangle me. I'm over 60. My teeth are all gone. But they still want to get at me."

Then the next thing you know she is sitting in the back of a black limo struggling from a vodka bottle, screaming at the cameraman: "You bastard, you were filming me drinking!"

To think that barely a decade ago Brezhnev was still riding high and so was his daughter. Those good old days. As Yuri Belavsky, deputy editor of *Komsomol*, says in the programme: "Under Brezhnev, the availability of sausage became the symbol of socialism. If there was plenty of cheap sausage, this was socialism. No sausage, no more socialism."

I don't think you would find Galina disagreeing with that.

Gothic horror shocks

Many musical New Yorkers ask why the Met does not present more adventurous new productions. The answer to that question was made painfully apparent at the premiere of a provocative new staging of *Lucia di Lammermoor*, with June Anderson in the title role, produced by the young American director Francesca Zambello (best known to British audiences for staging the giant *7000* at Earl's Court in 1991).

When Zambello (who was making her debut) and the stage designers appeared for their curtain call, the gala-night audience unleashed a vicious volley of boos and catcalls, the like of which had not been heard in the house since Sir Peter Hall's infamous *Macbeth* ten years ago.

Zambello has conceived *Lucia* as a grim, Gothic psychodrama, closer in spirit to the Walter Scott novel upon which it was based than to the modern tradition of bel canto opera as a string of pretty tunes, untainted by logic or motivation. The production was set in a hallucinatory dreamscape, intended to reflect Lucia's mental torment.



June Anderson: admirable flexibility and technique

John Conklin's set comprised fragmented bits of Gothic architecture, tumbled together with lumps of rock and Victorian graveyard monuments. All this was pitched at crazy angles or suspended in the air, even more chaotically as Lucia's psyche degenerated. Anderson's interpretation of this role has deepened and intensified. She sang with admirable flexibility and an excellent technique, and appeared to be deeply in sympathy with this production. As

Edgar, Richard Leech sang with a voluptuous warmth, though at times it was perilously close to a sob. Juan Pons was a big, brutal Enrico, singing with an ugly messianic edge that was in character with his role. Conductor Marcello Panni led the orchestra in a performance that was at once forceful, idiomatic and devoid of subtlety.

JAMIE JAMES

Organic but not operatic

air when the Maiden's Chateleine appears from nowhere and restores her to freedom and her true love.

The music, written by Sibelius in 1896 (between *En saga* and the First Symphony), is rarely dull. But its powerful rhythms and driving ostinatos ill-serve the purpose of the libretto. The confrontation of the Maiden and Baillif in the opening scene is set to all-purpose *agitato* declamation, entirely unoperatic in idiom. The love duet of Scene V similarly surges along in neo-

Wagnerian style (Sibelius had made his pilgrimage to Bayreuth) without any obvious feeling for character, situation or plot.

Margareta Haverinen's Maiden was a passionate soul, with a vibrant, full-blooded tone that tended towards stridency under pressure. As the Lover, Paul HARRY also produced his best tone when not singing flat out. Jonathan Veira's apologetic Baillif and Christine Boies's securely sung Chateleine completed the cast.

There is a good deal of fine, if inappropriate, choral work, rendered here ably by the New Company Choir. The Covent Garden Festival Orchestra, under Peter Ash's vigorous direction, did full justice to a score which has much of interest and value in it.

BARRY MILLINGTON

OPERA: Bellini at the New York Met; Massenet in Manchester; and rare Sibelius in London

Glowing cinders

There may be good reasons why *Cendrillon*, Massenet's version of the Cinderella story, has never quite caught on. Among them is that 1899 was perhaps a bad time for serious French composers to attempt lightness of touch; and in this score Massenet rarely tries. It is hard to resist the feeling that he simply took himself too seriously for the subject.

So the director has a major problem on his hands. At the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, Stefan Janski approached it by the use of colour, particularly with an astonishingly skilled movement of large quantities of people, resourcefully lit by Philip L. Edwards. He also included a troupe of dancers from the Northern Ballet School, giving a rich dimension to the opera's ballets. Richard Marks designed sets that alternate pure art nouveau with something closer to *Mary Poppins* and costumes that are mainly from the 18th century. There were some magical changes of scene.

A student performance can benefit enormously from hav-

ing a first-rate conductor; and David Lloyd-Jones filled the bill admirably. He secured liquid and eloquent playing from the orchestra, and coaxed brilliant sounds from the chorus, well trained by Brian Hughes.

Several soloists had trouble with the French and others were a touch insecure in their innuendo, but Sara Fulgoni was truly magisterial in the title role, with a powerful voice and a charismatic stage presence. Craig Smith as her father gave the most rounded performance of the evening: tender and eloquent with every detail in place. Stephen Chaundy was a Prince Charming who showed some irresistible tenor colours, though the role was not quite right for his voice, which showed signs of strain. Kathleen Wilkinson was a deft Stepmother, well supported by the Ugly Sisters of Mariamne Joseph and Claire Bradshaw. And events were delightfully controlled by the fetching strophes of roudes of Louise Walsh's *Fairy Godmother*.

DAVID FALLOWS

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NATIONAL THEATRE

Whether castle or council house, old homes are often fire-traps. Rachel Kelly reports on the dangers, and suggests some possible precautions

The hazard linking Queen and commoner

As the Queen and her family watched the fire blaze at Windsor Castle nearly two weeks ago, another family was contemplating the destruction of its home in Edinburgh.

But while the Windsors live in a series of palaces, the Airlies rent a council maisonette; while repairs to Windsor Castle are estimated at £60 million, the Airlies are facing a cost of £1,000; and while Windsor Castle is so large that the royal family have been able to move into a different wing, the Airlies have been transferred to a nearby council flat to wait for their home to be redecorated.

Yet there are similarities between the two cases. Neither family, each of four children, was insured and neither was injured. Nor was there anything in law to enforce fire regulations in their home. (Legislation applies only to new buildings).

Furthermore, the two families lived in properties which meant both they and their homes were particularly vulnerable to fire.

Although statistics from the fire brigade do not break down fires into property categories, Stewart Kidd, director of the Fire Protection Association, a group supported by the insurance companies, says that historic homes of the rich, and council or housing association property lived in by poorer members of society, are the two types of homes most likely to catch fire.

Evidence from the Historic Houses Association shows that about 50 listed houses burn down every year, and another 100 are seriously damaged, although the occupants are unlikely to die because the houses are so large.

The most likely people to die in fires, Mr Kidd says, are those living in local authority housing, aged under five or over 60 years old, or disabled, or single parents, or on social security benefit.

"These people are more vulnerable because of the social conditions

in which they live," he says. "They may not, for example, be able to afford electric heaters and therefore use paraffin heaters, which are more dangerous."

He recalls a tragedy last year where children were left locked in a room because their mother could not afford a babysitter, and perished in a fire.

Although such families are more vulnerable because of their living conditions, the actual structure of their property would tend to be less at risk from fire because it was built after the second world war. The risk of fire damage to a building increases with its age. Indeed, before the first world war, most large country houses had their own fire brigades complete with mini-engines pushed through the corridors.

Only 61.7 per cent of British families have taken out, or are able to take out, insurance

"Older buildings do not lend themselves to fire resistance because of the common voids and spaces," Mr Kidd says. "Typically, there will be a single attic, with no divisions. In a modern building, there would be fire walls dividing up the space."

At Uppark, a stately home in West Sussex owned by the National Trust, fire flashed through the roof in August 1989. Smoke started pouring out of the southern end of the building's roof, yet within 25 minutes it had reached the other end, according to *Heritage under Fire*, a report produced by the UK working party on Fire Safety in Historic Buildings.

Old buildings, such as Uppark or Windsor Castle, would have been changed over the years, with new layers being inserted inside the old, often with gaps in between that provide the perfect tunnels for

fires and are often hidden from view. At Windsor, there was a rift gap between the ceiling of St George's hall and the actual roof.

A house like Uppark would also have what Mr Kidd calls a "higher fuel load": tapestries, paintings, panelling, some of which may have been attacked by insects leaving them porous and flammable, and treated with chemical sprays, which can be highly flammable. Waxed and polished floors often mean the wax builds up, leaving a layer ready to ignite, sometimes helped by the sawdust stuffed between the floorboards for insulation, making the potential blaze even worse.

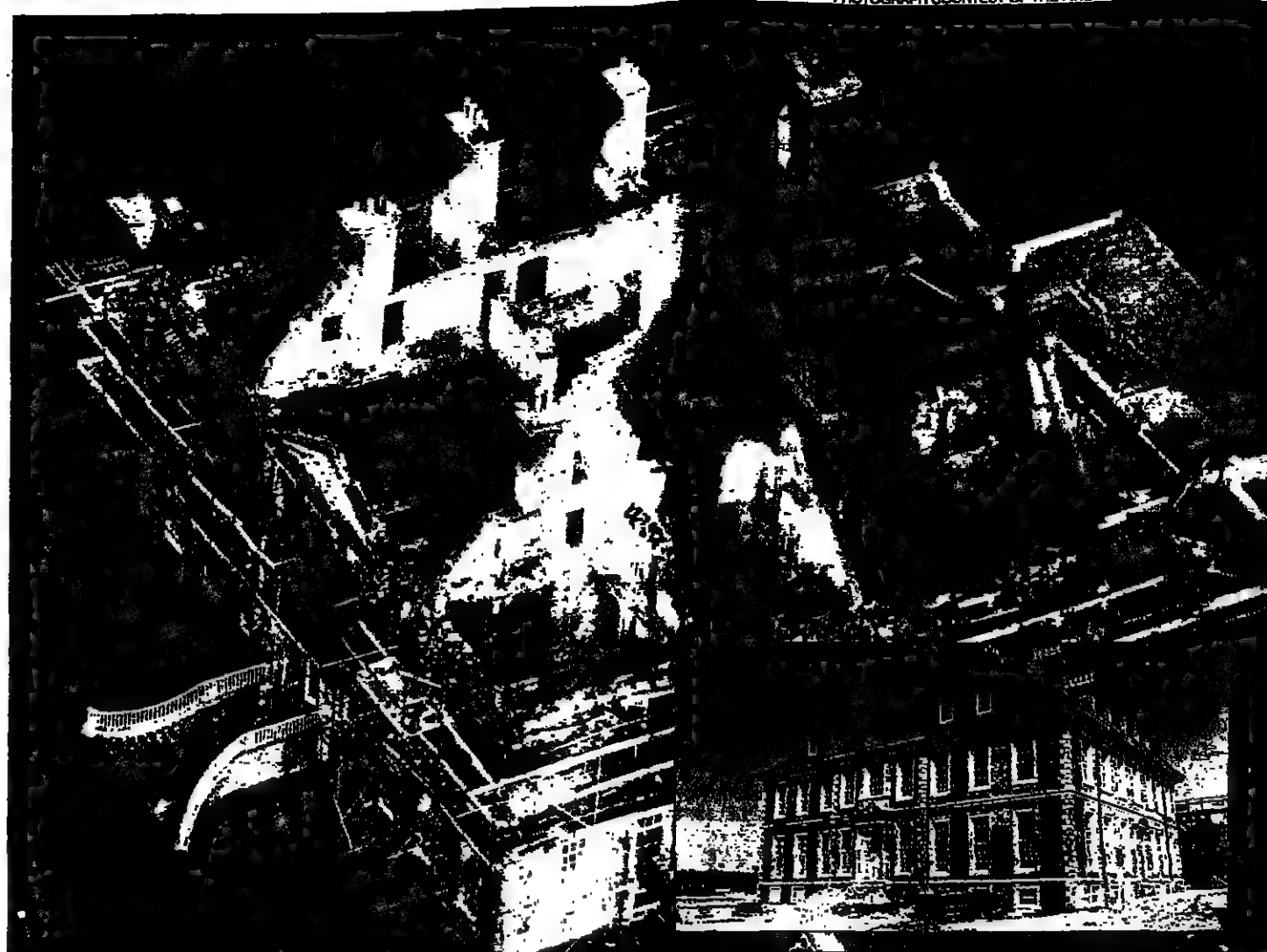
Old buildings have more sources of ignition: chimneys which are not properly lined and faulty electric wiring, particularly wiring from pre-plastic days. Finally, the owners of very old buildings often have builders working on restoration, using heat to weld or cut.

The National Trust, owner of Uppark, has now banned any heat-producing equipment inside its buildings. The house was insured but the restoration cost will run to more than £13 million.

Once a fire has started, stately homes tend to be more vulnerable because they may be far from water. Uppark was built on top of a hill, so the water supply to it by means of an electrically operated borehole pump was poor.

The risks are plain. What of the precautions to protect such vulnerable buildings? The worst flashpoint for both types of building, both regal and lowly, are fires started in the kitchen, by smoking, and because of faulty electrical appliances. Cooking accidents account for 42 per cent of fires (the chip-pan fire is still common), 18 per cent are electrical and 11 per cent are smoking-related.

Apart from the obvious precautions, two sensible installations can help to protect a house: smoke alarms and sprinkler systems. Smoke alarms cost between £3.50 and £15 and have a proven life-



Stately tinder-box: the fire at Uppark, West Sussex, in 1989. In the rebuilt house (inset) heat-producing equipment is banned

saving record. The only problem is making sure that homeowners replace the batteries annually.

Sprinklers are made up of a network of pipes at ceiling level, which incorporate a series of nozzles sealed by glass bulbs. The heat of the fire breaks the nearest bulb, which expands as the temperature

rises, to release the water. Sprinklers could have prevented the blaze at Windsor, Mr Kidd says. But they are expensive and there is the disruption of installation to consider.

Once a fire has started, the simplest advice is to close doors, says the Fire Research Station in

Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, which duplicates household fires on theatrical sets in laboratories. By shutting the door, the fire will use up most of the oxygen in the room and may go out.

The final precaution is insurance. The last word goes to the Association of British Insurers:

make sure you are insured, and make sure the figure for which your house is insured is not grossly misvalued.

Sadly, only 61.7 per cent of British families have taken out, or are able to take out, insurance, the Airlies and the Windsors not among them.

Hidden faults that come with recession

The recession-hit housing market may hide a time bomb that will hit owners when they sell, raising damp and woodworm, usually exposed when a house is surveyed during a move.

Homeowners are not moving nearly as often as five years ago because of fears about job security and possible mortgage rate rises, a spokesperson for the Council of Mortgage Lenders says. More than a million people are also caught in the "negative equity" trap, owing more than their property is worth, according to the Bank of England's quarterly bulletin. It may take years for some owners to escape.

While people stay put, their homes may be deteriorating. The environment department's 1986 home condition survey for England showed that 2.9 million of the nation's 18 million homes were in disrepair. The 75,000 or more repossessed houses standing empty and neglected are particularly likely to be in a bad state.

However, the fall-off in house selling has led to an increasing number of home improvers. Last year the Halifax Building Society increased its lending for home improvements. In a survey of 1,500 borrowers, it found that 31 per cent used the money for double glazing.

David Thurlow cautions against neglecting home maintenance

16 per cent for central heating, the same number for extensions and 10 per cent for large-scale maintenance and repairs.

A spokesperson says: "It shows that people are attending to the structure of their houses. When people stay longer, they look to maintain their houses better than if they were staying for only a couple of years."

Do-it-yourself home improvers, however, do not have the expert eye for the invisible dangers. They may spot a dripping gutter that is rotting a window sill, or the stain on a wall that is caused by an outside and visible crack, but the real hazards and destructors may not be visible.

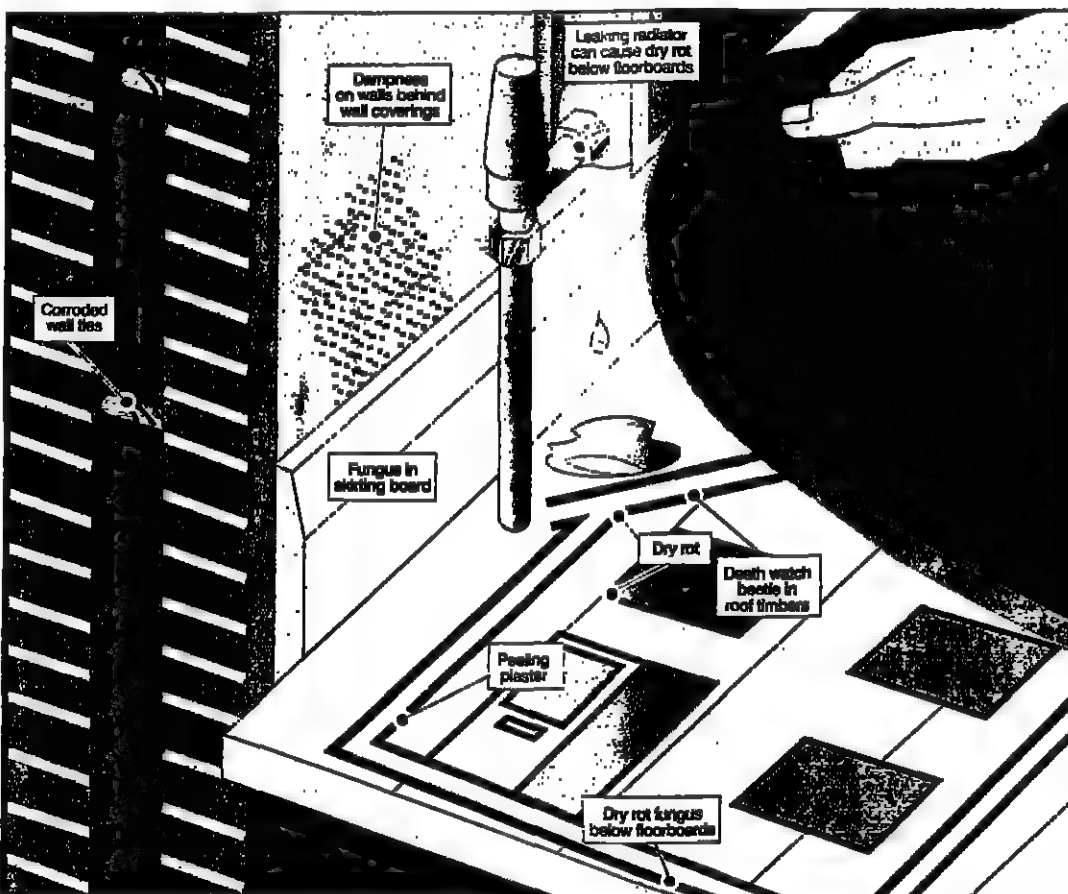
Ernest Cantle, a director of the National Home Improvement Council, says: "In the market's heyday, houses changed hands regularly. Every time that happened, a survey was made and the seller may have had quite a few repairs to do. If they did not do it, the building society put a retention

order on until the repairs were carried out. This does not happen when people stay put. The real worry concerns people in the mortgage trap. They certainly will not have their homes surveyed."

The council has an answer: a scheme to have a record book for houses like the old log books for cars. Householders could do an annual check and call in a surveyor every five years or so to make a professional check. A house log would also include details of where the fuses and stopcock in the house were and how to contact the plumber, electrician and builder who were used for repairs.

Mr Cantle says that setting up the scheme would cost about £100,000 a year in advertising and newspaper publicity for the first three years. The log book would cost about £1 and once the idea caught on it would be self-financing. He says: "We have suggested this to the government but it says responsibility for the condition of a house belongs with the owner. Certainly, without funds, we cannot operate the scheme. The creeping dangers, such as dry and wet rot, rising damp and woodworm, pointing and subsidence, are invisible and expensive to overcome."

Peter Miller, the national housing spokesman for the Royal Insti-



tution of Chartered Surveyors, says more than 75 per cent of buyers have only a limited mortgage inspection. He adds: "Of those who have a more detailed housebuyer's report or survey, one in five has important structural defects." The experts' advice is to have a survey done at least every ten years.

Renokil offers a free check for

dry and wet rot, woodworm and damp course damp but charges £90 to check for wall tie failure. The council recommends a thorough inspection by a surveyor or builder. Mr Cantle says of builders who knock on the door and say some part of the building is in disrepair: "They may be cowboys — or they may be right. You should ask them

to give a written quotation, then get another from a second builder and pick the best." A proper survey can cost £350 for a three-bedroom semi-detached house. To find a surveyor, look in *Yellow Pages* for somebody with the right initials after his name, or contact the institution.

● Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, 071-222 7000

THE RISKS

SOME of the more common hidden faults are:

Woodworm. Up in the loft or burrowing away in joists or in the floorboards under fitted carpets, they can attack old and new timbers. The holes are small but the damage can be huge. A Rentokil spokesman says that treatment or eradication of woodworm can cost £700 in a three-bedroom semi-detached if it is bad and not spotted in time.

Wall-tie corrosion. This rusting of the ties between the inner and outer leaves of cavity walls threatens 11 million of the 20 million homes in the UK, particularly those built before 1981. If corrosion occurs, walls can bulge and crack. The corrosion can last 20 years before it is obvious, unless the house is surveyed regularly. It can cost £1,800 to have corrected.

Dry and wet rot. This is caused by dampness, particularly in bathrooms where a leak is masked by a carpet. The same can happen under a radiator if the temperature is right. Dry rot can cost £1,000 to put right.

Rising damp. This comes from a defective damp-proof course and can move upwards behind the skirting boards and wallpaper, even into the joists, and can cause dry and wet rot. Repairs can cost £600.

The developer's secret of converting failure into success

What makes for a successful conversion into flats of a stately home, or a stately mill such as Bliss Mill in the Cotswolds? The housing market is littered with failed conversions, however sympathetic in architectural terms, which reveal the two biggest problems for would-be developers of country piles: schemes that are too far from London or other big cities, and converted flats offered for sale before the development is finished. Prospective purchasers see how much money will be required, and shy off because they are worried it will never happen.

Sheffield Park, near Haywards Heath in East Sussex, was a good example. Some of the flats were finished and sold, but the developer left the less attractive ones in a shell state and few were interested. Now it is in the hands of the receivers, and the few people who did buy are living in limbo.

Another example is the handsome Bradfield Hall, in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. This 17th-century house has 18 acres of land with lake, paddocks and landscaped grounds and was well converted by Peter Barrett in 1990. He has sold two flats, lives in one himself and has had to let the converted cottages alongside. Bradfield Hall is just too far away from London.

Of the success stories, Framewood Manor in Fulmer, Buckinghamshire, with its indoor leisure centre, bowling

Turning stately piles into flats which sell needs more than good intentions

green and croquet lawn, has sold out. Northwick Park, Sherbourne House and Charlton Park, all in the Cotswolds, have sold well. Of Dene Park, a Victorian mansion near Shipbourne, Kent, Jeremy Streeten, the developer, says: "We have sold seven of the nine flats and two of the courtyard properties in the past year, which is excellent." Prices range from £250,000 to £400,000 for the remaining flats and newly built houses beside the old one. He is also building a five-bedroom house in an acre of land for £500,000.

Just on the market is Bliss Mill, a mile outside Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire. This tweed mill was put on the market five years ago by a company that later went bust. Its mistake was to complete only two show flats, leaving the rest derelict. There was interest, but nobody wanted to proceed while the building was in such a condition.

Now Andrew Davies of Widworthy Estates has taken over. He has built a leisure complex in the Wool House, which includes indoor swimming pool, squash court, sauna, billiards room and gym-

nasium. Outside are two all-weather tennis courts, and in the weaving shed is covered parking for two cars per unit. A local agent says this is a huge advantage, accounting for £30,000 of the price.

Mr Davies says: "If it does not sell, which I am sure it will, I will turn it into self-catering holiday lets."

Mr Davies seems to have got it right. The first two people who looked over the mill last weekend arranged to return for a second look. The M40 extension makes London and Birmingham easily accessible, and everything is in place, including the floodlit landscaped gardens and the fish swimming around the pond.

Security is good, which is important to international buyers who perhaps live in Hong Kong, have children at public school in Britain and want a property they can lock up and leave safely while they are abroad. The third kind of likely buyer is the early retiree who wants something comfortable with space, views and little maintenance, who will live permanently in the property.

John D. Wood is the agent selling the 35 one, two and three-bedroom flats, two three-bedroom lodges and nine two and three-bedroom cottages. Prices range from £125,000 for a one-bedroom flat to £245,000 for a three-bedroom house in the Old Lodge and overlooking the mill pond.

MARY WILSON



Bliss Mill: 35 flats are for sale in this building, a former tweed mill in Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire

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An education, a test of the complete person, a bastion of sportsmanship. David Miller examines the modern pentathlon

Founding father appeals for retention of mind game



Thofelt: 'It must not die'

Some of the heroes of my youth graced the stage in Stockholm last week at the gala evening celebrating the foundation of the International Amateur Athletic Federation 80 years ago. Gunder Hagg and Arne Andersson, who assaulted so often and so closely the four-minute mile; Fanny Blankers-Koen, star of the Olympic Games in London in 1948; Bob Mathias, the teenager who astonished the sporting world in the decathlon.

These and other oldies joined this year's champions of Barcelona, including the two athletes of the year, Kevin Young and Heike Henkel, at dinner with King Carl Gustaf. An absentee on the guest list was one of the noblest of champions from that definitive Olympic sport designed by Pierre de Coubertin, the modern pentathlon. General Sven Thofelt's agility with horse, sword and gun is these days a little restricted.

At 88, still ramrod straight in his crimson blazer from the Games of 1976 in Montreal, which took place during his 23 years presiden-

cy of modern pentathlon, Thofelt's eyesight is too uncertain for him to attend this week's congress in France to debate the threatened Olympic future of his sport. Yet he regards this amalgam of disciplines that epitomise the life of a cavalry officer as man's most demanding test of mind, body and character.

In the attempt to preserve modern pentathlon's place on the Olympic programme — presently under criticism for its cost, lack of worldwide competitors and its minimal spectator/television potential — this week's conference will discuss alterations to the schedule of the five events, possibly to include laser shooting.

"The sport is an education in itself," Thofelt said. "It trains the mind as much as the body, and should be experienced by all leaders of men. It must not die. Riding and fencing are wholly with the head, the body being only an instrument of the mind. Shooting is a test of character and will, of steadiness. Only the swimming and running are wholly physical."

IOC innovation adopted

IMPORTANT changes to modern pentathlon were agreed at the conclusion of a meeting of the modern pentathlon and biathlon union at the weekend.

Modern pentathlon agreed to the format proposed by the International Olympic Committee for a one-day competition for both men and women, and a one-day team relay event. Experiments are also in hand for laser shooting, one of

the sport's five events. The one-day innovation will require fencing competitors to be segregated into pools, hitherto, competitors at any event have fenced against all other competitors.

Another initiative, proposed by Australia, is for a commercially-backed grand slam series of one-day competitions.

Anders Besseberg, of Norway, was elected as president of the union.

Umpires report Border and Hughes as Australia draw

Fletcher's visit has uplifting effect

FROM RICHARD STREKSTON IN JOHANNESBURG

KEITH Fletcher's spying mission at the second Test match here between South Africa and India left the England manager confident that his own team would have a successful tour to India after Christmas. Before returning home, Fletcher said his journey to South Africa had been encouraging and worthwhile.

"India always play better in their own country," Fletcher said. "But on the showing that I have seen here, I rather fancy our chances in India."

He believed that if the series was to be played in England, "we would have annihilated them. As it is, India in India can always be tough."

Fletcher felt that neither South Africa nor India had played particularly well in the drawn Test match, which finished on Monday. Most of the Indian batsmen, he said, were clearly out of form and they looked short of confidence.

South Africa, at present, have not got any classic batsmen, the sort who excited spectators. "They are a long way from the Graeme Pollock era," he said.

Asked about the Indian bowlers, Fletcher said that Kapil Dev looked tired. The fact that the series with England will begin straight after India return home would not help him in this context.

Kapil, who will be 34 when he plays against England, took only one wicket in the second Test match. It left him 23 behind Sri Lankan Hadlee's record career aggregate of 431 Test wickets.

Fletcher said it was hard to imagine better swing bowling than Prabhakar's on the first morning, but later in the game he had looked ordinary. Fletcher had not seen Kumble turn the ball much and the spinner's success in taking six wickets in the second innings had been a surprise.

The South Africans looked all at sea against him and I think it underlines the lack of spin bowling in their own cricket at the present time," he said.

Kumble would not be a problem for England, Fletcher felt, unless he learned to turn the ball much more. The England manager nominated Matthews, with his steadiness and movement, as the best South African bowler, while Donald's pace was always a threat.

Richardson saves West Indies on fractious final day

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

Brisbane: A fine innings of 66 from the West Indies captain, Richie Richardson, enabled his side to hold out for a draw on a dramatic final day of the first Test against Australia here yesterday.

Needing 231 to win, West Indies collapsed to nine for four, but, thanks largely to a partnership of 86 between Richardson and Carl Hooper, they clawed their way to safety at 133 for eight. Their fast bowler, Ian Bishop, safely negotiated the final over from Merv Hughes.

Australian tempers got the better of them during the innings and the captain, Allan Border, and Hughes were reported by the umpires for dissent. Hughes exchanged words with Steve Randell after an appeal against Richardson was turned down when he had made 47. Border also spoke to Randell and pointed to his shin after another appeal had been refused.

The two were reported under the new International Cricket Council code of conduct. A hearing was held after close of play and the verdict of the match referee, Raman Subba Row, was due to be announced today. He has the power to fine a player up to 75 per cent of his match fee or suspend him for up to three Tests, plus any other international matches in that period.

Border said he was unaware of the reports being made, and said that if that was the case, the umpires would be "over-reacting". "We thought we might have had a few more decisions, but they have to call it as they see it," he said.

Richardson said of the match, in which fortunes had fluctuated throughout: "It's competitive but friendly. That's the way I like to play."

West Indies lost three wickets for three runs in 4.5 overs before lunch. Haynes and Lara falling to McDermott and Simmons to Reid. Arthurton, who scored an unbeaten 157 in the first innings, fell to McDermott just after the interval.

By tea, however, Richardson was on 55, and in control with Hooper. West Indies, at 93 for four, needed 138 runs to win, but their hopes of victory ended when Hooper and Williams were out for the addition of three runs.

Richardson was out on 123, edging Hughes to Healy after nearly four hours at the crease, and Australia needed to capture three wickets in the final six overs for victory. Ambrose was caught by Hughes off Reid, but Bishop and Walsh stood firm.

FINAL SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 288 (A R Border 73, C L Hooper 4 for 75)	
M A Taylor c Williams b Walsh	34
D C Boon c Arthurton b Bishop	111
S R Waugh c Williams b Ambrose	20
M E Waugh c Haynes b Ambrose	80
D R Martyn b b Ambrose	15
A R Border c Williams b Walsh	17
G R Matthews b b Ambrose	0
I A Healy c Williams b Bishop	18
M G Hughes c Williams b Ambrose	1
C L Hooper not out	16
B A Reid c Richardson b Hooper	1
Bones (b 4, 2, 2, 0)	18
Total (8 wickets)	288
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-84, 2-114, 3-224, 4-250, 5-255, 6-256, 7-280, 8-287, 9-288	
BOWLING: Ambrose 32-8-65-4; Bishop 27-6-52-2; Hooper 28-3-63-1; Walsh 24-3-64-2; Patterson 7-0-44-0; Arthurton 1-0-2-0; Simmons 1-0-0-0	
Man of the match: D C Boon	

WEST INDIES: First Innings 271 (K L T Arthurton 157 not out, B C Lara 66, B A Reid 5 for 112)	
Second Innings	
D L Haynes c Healy b McDermott	1
P V Simmons c Healy b Reid	0
R B Richardson c Healy b Hughes	66
B C Lara c Taylor b McDermott	0
K L T Arthurton c McDermott	157
C L Hooper c Boon b Matthews	32
I D Williams b McDermott	0
I P Bishop not out	10
C E L Ambrose c Hughes b Reid	4
C A Walsh not out	0
Bones (b 7, 2, 0, 0)	13
Total (6 wickets)	133
B P Patterson did not bat	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-4, 3-4, 4-9, 5-26, 6-123, 7-123, 8-128	
BOWLING: McDermott 18-7-35-4; Reid 16-7-38-2; Hughes 13-4-25-1; Matthews 13-4-18-1; S R Waugh 5-1-5-0	
Umpires: T C Puse and S G Randell	

Pakistan play West Indies in the opening game of the tournament on Friday in Perth, with Australia meeting West Indies in Perth on Sunday and again in Sydney on Tuesday. The Australian selectors have recalled Tim May, the spinner, for his first appearance since the Nehru Cup in India in 1989.

AUSTRALIAN SQUAD: A R Border (captain), M A Taylor (vice-captain), D C Boon, I A Healy, D J C Vaughan, J A C Paterson, D J Reid, M L Silva and M G Owers to 10.

THIS year's triumphant Curtis Cup team tasted victory for a second time yesterday when they received the Daily Telegraph Woman Golfer of the Year Trophy in recognition of their achievement at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club, Hoylake, in June (Louise Taylor writes).

Great Britain and Ireland defeated the United States 10-8 to win the cup which was presented to them at Hoylake by the Duke of York. Their latest prize was handed over yesterday by Tony Jacklin, the former Ryder Cup captain, at a lunch in Knightsbridge, London. Flanked by two team-

mates — Caroline Hall, left, and Joanne Morley, right — Elizabeth Boatman, the Curtis Cup captain, is pictured admiring the salver.

Boatman said: "It is a tremendous honour to receive this latest award, the whole team are delighted." They are: Nicola Buxton (Woodsome Hall), Elaine Farquharson (Deeside), Carlone Hall (Filton), Julie Hall (Felixstowe Ferry), Claire Hourihane (Woodbrook), Carriona Lambert (North Berwick), Vicki Thomas (Pennard) and Joanne Morley (Sale). They also all received glass bowls.

Wright breaks new ground

Moratuwa: John Wright became the first New Zealand batsman to score 5,000 runs in Test cricket yesterday as the first Test against Sri Lanka moved towards a draw here.

Wright's 38 in an opening stand of 104 with Blair Hatland, who reached 50 not out, frustrated Sri Lanka with one day remaining.

Sri Lanka did not help their cause with slipshod catching after play was curtailed by rain and bad light. By the close of the fourth day, New Zealand were 65 runs ahead.

Sri Lanka, resuming at 299 for four, batted for half an hour following a late start due to rain and declared their first innings at 327 for six.

Hatland, 26, the Canterbury right-hander, 26, survived chances at ten and 31 before going on to complete his maiden Test fifty before the batsmen came off for bad light with 16 overs remaining.

Hathurusinghe dropped Hatland at third slip off Liyanage and de Silva put him down at first slip off Anurudhi. Wright also escaped on six when the first slip, Tillakaratne, failed to get his hands under an outside edge off Ranatunga's first over. (Agencies)

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 288 (K Rutherford 106, C Z Harris 56, D Liyanage 4 for 88)

Second Innings

B R Hartland not out 50
J G Wright not out 38
R B Harris (b 6, 10) 35
Total (no wickets) 109
A H Jones "M D Crowe, K Rutherford, C Z Harris, D J C Vaughan, J A C Paterson, D J Reid, M L Silva and M G Owers to 10.
BOWLING: Ranatunga 11-3-21-0, Liyanage 10-2-30-4, Hathurusinghe 8-5-11-0, Rutherford 6-2-10-0, Mourne 10-5-13-0, Westwood 4-0-13-0

Word-watching

Answers from page 40

REIFY (c) To make real, to convert mentally into a thing, to materialise. From the Latin *res* a thing, *ficere* to make. "When people make or find a new abstract noun, they instantly try to put it on a shelf or into a box, as though it were a thing; thus they reify it."

NATUARY (a) A hospital obstetrics room in American medical jargon, from the Latin *nascor*, *nasci*, *natus* I am born: "You booked when you took this patient to natuary, Foster. In spite of the frock, he should definitely be in casualty."

HOUSEL (c) The consecrated elements of the Eucharist, the administration or receiving of the Eucharist, as a verb, to administer the Communion, from the OE *hous* a sacrifice; *hamlet* senior: "Cut off even in the blossoms of my sin, Unhousel'd, disappointed, uncut."

ECHINATE (b) Furnished with numerous right hairs or straight prickles, as the fruit of *Cassia vesicaria*, from the Latin *echinus* a hedgehog: "When merit exhibits his gaudy gorged purse, They'll echinate, reddon and tacitly curse."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

Despite the limited material white gave mate with 1 Bf3! Kd6 (if 1... Kd7 2 Kd3! and, remarkably, black has no defence to 3 Kf4 and 4 Rh1+ 2 Bxh5! Bxh5 3 Rg6 mate.

SQUASH

St Mellons remain in drop zone

WITH the world's leading players in Karachi for the Pakistan open championship this week, Pimm's Premier League action was at the foot of the table (Colin McQuillan writes).

NETBALL

England under-21s enjoy winning start

JILLEAN Hipsey's England under-21 team have made a winning start to their World Youth Cup programme in Fiji. Hipsey's squad have so far enjoyed a resounding 72-11 triumph against Vanuatu, a similarly comprehensive 61-13 win against Tonga and a closer victory, 35-25, over Fiji yesterday.

Whitaker aiming for Games repeat

Whitaker aiming for Games repeat

DAVID Whitaker, who coached Great Britain to its finest hour in men's hockey, has been given a four-year contract to prepare the team for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. Whitaker, who guided the British team to the 1988 gold medal in Seoul, takes over his new duties on January 1.

Whitaker aiming for Games repeat

Whitaker aiming for Games repeat

By arrangement with the Hockey Association (HA), he will also coach England under-21 for the Junior World Cup in Spain, in 1993, the England senior team for the World Cup at Sydney in 1994 and the European Cup in Dublin in 1995. The HA will pay the Great Britain hockey board for duties which the coach will carry out for England during the 1993-5 period.

Whitaker aiming for Games repeat

Whitaker aiming for Games repeat

While coaching Great Britain, Whitaker's activities will involve the establishment of closer relations with the selectors appointed by the board and with the administrators of the three constituent associations, England, Wales and Scotland, at senior and under-21 levels.

Whitaker aiming for Games repeat

Whitaker aiming for Games repeat

Welcoming the change in the structure of his appointment, Whitaker said yesterday: "I am looking forward to what looks like a new challenge and I am determined to get as many people as possible involved in it."

Whitaker: 1988 gold

Whitaker: 1988 gold

Kribensis takes on Morley Street

By MICHAEL SEELY

THE rehabilitation of Kribensis continued yesterday when Michael Stoute said that his 1990 Champion Hurdle winner was to be schooled at Newmarket later this week with a view to taking on Morley Street in the Bula Hurdle at Cheltenham on December 12.

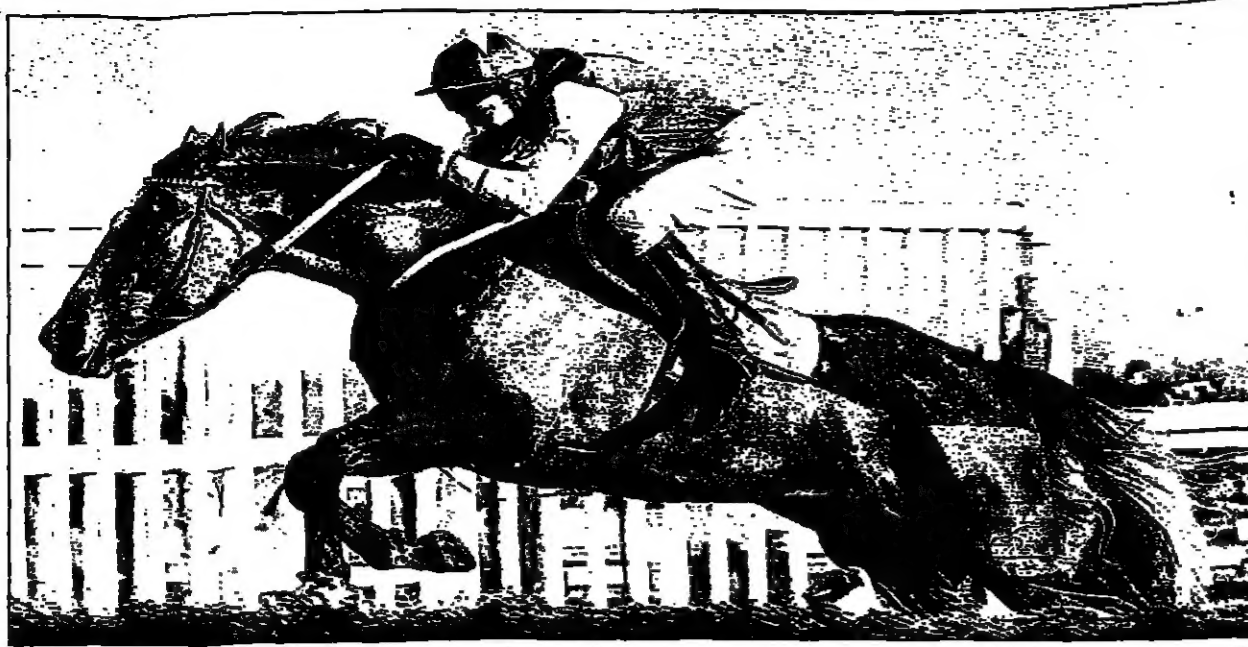
"We've got to get him back on the track because he's been off for so long," said the trainer. "He's been doing nice steady work and we're very pleased with him."

"After Cheltenham, the objective would be the Christmas Hurdle at Kempton. That will tell us if he's still in championship class."

At the time of his Champion win Kribensis had won ten of his 11 starts, his only defeat having occurred in the previous season's Champion Hurdle. Then, he missed the whole of the subsequent season due to a tendency to break blood vessels.

On the grey's attempted comeback last season, he finished second at Haydock before being pulled up behind Royal Gait at Cheltenham in March.

"It was a pretty horrific injury," said Stoute. "He skinned his near-hind cannon-bone. It was just like skinning a rabbit. Luckily, none of the main hinges or



Comeback trail: Kribensis, the former champion hurdler, prepares to return to the fray at Cheltenham next month

tendons were damaged, but it involved multiple stitching. At one point they had to cut away skin to promote fresh growth."

Simultaneously, news came from James Fanshawe that Shaikh Mohammed's other star of the winter game, Royal Gait, would not be seen in action before Christmas.

"He threw a splint ten days before Cheltenham last year and we had to run him with

the injury. He didn't have any leg problems, but we had to take things easy with him," the trainer said.

"I wanted to run him at Newcastle, but he was a bit flat at that time. He won't be ready for the Bula, so we'll run him in either the Christmas Hurdle or the Bookmakers' Hurdle at Leopardstown."

Yesterday's principal action in the betting on Saturday

William Hill Hurdle at Sandown concerned Valfinnet and Kilcash, whose prices hardened from even money to 5-4 on and from 9-1 to 13-2, respectively.

At Newmarket this evening, all eyes will be on Lyrice Fantasy when Lord Camarvon's diminutive flying machine is led into the sale ring at around 6.30pm.

Guesses about the likely

price for the Tate Gallery filly, whose only defeat from five starts came at the hands of Sayyadati in the Chevelay Park Stakes, vary from 250,000 guineas to 400,000 guineas.

The highest price of the December sale yesterday was the 425,000 guineas paid by Elizabeth Moran for Forest Flower, European champion two-year-old filly in 1986.

Persuasive ready to continue her good work at Catterick

PERSUASIVE, who won by five lengths at Catterick 11 days ago, has a fine chance of collecting the Brompton Handicap Hurdle there again today in the care of her regular rider Mark Buckley, and she is my nap.

Trained locally by Lynda Parnett, Persuasive began her season by finishing a promising second to the in-form Seon on today's course.

Following that good effort, it came as no surprise to see her best Gallathea by two lengths at Haydock.

Undeafening her toughness, Persuasive then reappeared on the north Yorkshire track three days later and won in style, even with a 6lb penalty.

With Buckley claiming his 7lb allowance, she will be hard to beat there again, more especially since Gallathea has underlined the soundness of her form by winning at Kelso two days ago.

Whitebait, who was ten lengths behind Persuasive in fourth place last time, has no apparent chance of reversing the placings on these terms even though he will obviously be sharper for that race. In the circumstances, Persuasive has more to fear from Strong Views and Tapach.

Strong Views has twice beaten Will Sparkle at Kelso this season and it was Willie

Cup even with 12 stone on his back.

A winner at Wetherby, Doncaster and Haydock last season, Armagret has run well enough at Cheltenham and Wetherby this autumn to suggest that he can take care of Seppister for these terms.

At Huntingdon, West End can make it four wins from five attempts when he contests the Long Sutton Handicap Chase.

A winner on the track in October, he looked in particularly fine fettle at Market Rasen ten days ago when scoring by 12 lengths.

Cosie Regrets, from Henrietta Knight's in-form Lockinge stable, looks a decent bet to win the BFF Hurdle qualifier.

Although he is apparently not the easiest of horses to train, he clearly has loads of ability, as he has demonstrated twice in educational races on the Flat. His jumping at home has been good.

Ludlow, scheduled for today, was called off yesterday because of a waterlogged course. Huntingdon was the subject of a stewards' inspection yesterday before the course was passed fit.

However, I marginally prefer Vaynua, who is best judged on his close second to Bonanza at Sedgefield. He was out of his depth last time out behind Armagret, trained locally by Jumbo Wilkinson, has a decent chance of winning the Charles Vickers Memorial

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Ludlow lost

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HUNTINGDON

MANDARIN

12.15 Allseal.

12.45 West End.

1.15 Oasis Regrets.

1.45 Sound of Jura.

2.15 Spirit of Kibris.

2.45 Eastern Magic.

3.15 Allegro Con Brío.

RICHARD EVANS: 12.15 Tartar Turtur. 1.45 Manebuck.

R. The Times Private Handicapper's top ratings: 12.45 WEST ENDER.

R. GOING: SOFT (HEAVY PATCHES)

12.15 MONTAGU CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' SELLING HURDLE

(51.537: 2m 110yds) (8 runners)

1. 0222-42 ALDUSAL (J. J. Gifford) 5-11-10. M. Stevens (5) 105

2. 0222-42 ALDUSAL (J. J. Gifford) 5-11-10. M. Stevens (5) 105

3. 0222-42 ALDUSAL (J. J. Gifford) 5-11-10. M. Stevens (5) 105

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THUNDERER

12.15 Allseal.

12.45 West End.

1.15 Oasis Regrets.

1.45 Sound of Jura.

2.15 Spirit of Kibris.

2.45 Eastern Magic.

3.15 Allegro Con Brío.

RICHARD EVANS: 12.15 Tartar Turtur. 1.45 Manebuck.

R. The Times Private Handicapper's top ratings: 12.45 WEST ENDER.

R. GOING: SOFT (HEAVY PATCHES)

12.15 MONTAGU CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' SELLING HURDLE

(51.537: 2m 110yds) (8 runners)

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- BBC1**
- 6.00 **Cheese** (55888) 6.30 **BBC Breakfast News** (4037266)
 9.05 **Kilroy** Robert Kilroy-Green chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (2249840) 9.45 **Rose King** Game show. The guest is Olympic three-day eventer Julian Searman (s) (8231734)
 10.00 **News**, regional news and weather (3033440) 10.05 **Playdays**. For the very young (s) (8679173)
 10.30 **Good Morning**... with Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine series presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen (s) With **News** (Ceeftax) and weather at 11.00 and 12.00 (48139208)
 12.15 **Pebble Mill**. Music and chat introduced by Alan Titchmarsh (s) (8647192) 12.55 **Regional News** and weather (85071550)
 1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Philip Hayton. (Ceeftax) Weather (80802)
 1.30 **Neighbours**. (Ceeftax) (s) (21429208) 1.50 **Eldorado** (s). (Ceeftax) (s) (3778421)
 2.20 **Shirley and Hutch**. American police drama series starring Paul Michael Glaser and David Soul (s) (2712181) 3.10 **Primmities**. Roy Castle and Maggie Philbin celebrate 30 years of television satire with guests Ned Sherrin and Harry Thompson, producer of *Have I Got News for You* (s) (7232762) 3.40 **Lifeline**. Jenny Seagrove with an appeal on behalf of the Eating Disorders Association (s) (8214821)
 3.50 **Doochy Doochy Euro Tour**. Puppet music show (9458729) 3.55 **Radio Roo**. Episode ten of the 13-part comedy drama series (s) (5176474) 4.10 **The New York Bear Show** (s) (7579482) 4.20 **Watt on Earth**. Science fiction comedy thriller (s) (2477685) 4.35 **Isaac Fiasco**. Adam Fiasco and Tully Mudhar meet people with obsessions (Ceeftax) (s) (5272483)
 5.00 **Newsround** (2951463) 5.10 **Grange Hill**. Secondary school drama series (8621283) 5.35 **Neighbours** (s). (Ceeftax) (s) (741668) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
 6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. (Ceeftax) Weather (89)
 6.30 **Regional News Magazines** (89). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
 7.00 **Eldorado**. (Ceeftax) (s) (5883)



Tuning in to Truro's Pirate FM: Howard Stabileford (7.30pm)

- 7.30 **Tomorrow's World**. Includes Howard Stabileford at a Cornish radio station that uses a computer to select and play the music and jingles; and a report on the controversy surrounding a blaze four years ago that almost devastated America's Yellowstone Park. (Ceeftax) (s) (53)
 8.00 **Trainer**. The final episode of the drama series set in the world of horse-racing. (Ceeftax) (s) (639385)
 8.50 **Points of View** presented by Anne Robinson (s) (517837)
 9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Michael Burk (Ceeftax) Regional News and weather (8500)
 9.30 **Pole to Pole**. Michael Palin continues his north to south odyssey and in Johannesburg discovers that there are no spaces left in the ship sailing from Cape Town to the Antarctic. (Ceeftax) (s) (823732)
 10.20 **Sportsworld**. Introduced by Desmond Lynam. Boring: Riddick Bove in a recorded interview in the United States. Lennox Lewis responds live in the studio. Plus action from the ABA contest between England and Ireland at Everton Park Sports Centre. Football: a round-up of the weekend's games (1448901)
 11.35 **Magic of the Music**. The first of a two-part concert starring Mari Woff and Mark Watney singing numbers from the world's top musicals (s) (332028) 12.30 **Weather** (8502680). Ends at 12.35
 2.15 **50/50**. **Accountancy**. Television (51154) 3.15 **Legal**. **Television**. Television (31057). Ends at 3.45 4.00 **TV**. **Editors**. **Deutschland Heute** 4 (5401390). Ends at 4.50

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- BBC2**
- 6.00 **Breakfast News** (5592376) 6.15 **Westminster** (5681463)
 9.00 **Six Scottish Burghs**. The history of Thurso (86802)
 9.30 **Film: Make Mine Mink** (1960, b/w) starring Tony-Thomson. Warm-hearted farce directed by Robert Aske (78111269)
 11.10 **Film: The Sun Shines Bright** (1953, b/w). The John Ford season continues with what he considered his favourite - a re-make of Judge Priest - starring Charles Winninger (5132685)
 12.40 **Great Little Railways**. A journey along the White Pass and Yukon Railroad, known as the Goldrush line (s). (Ceeftax) (1530550)
 1.20 **Greenpeace**. Young children's entertainment (s) (40610734)
 1.35 **Another War, Another Peace**. A new 13-part series narrated by Magnus Magnusson about life in the 1940s and 1950s (7370366)
 2.00 **News** - weather (8653737) 2.05 **Ted Harrison**. A portrait of one of Canada's leading artists (s) (4483885) 2.35 **Country File**. Rural issues examined by John Craven (s) (9106389)
 3.00 **News** and weather (7068734) 3.05 **Westminster Live** (9415289)
 3.50 **News**, regional news and weather (5218847)
 4.00 **Catchword**. Game for wordsmiths, hosted by Paul Coia (s) (82)
 4.30 **Behind the Headlines**. With Linda Agar (s) (65)
 5.00 **Where Are They All Going?** A report on the MS, the north of Britain's busiest motorway (5579) 5.30 **The History Man**. Bryan McInerney visits South Croft in Cornwall (221753)
 5.35 **Landscapes of England**. Professor W.G. Hoskins, who died earlier this year, explores the never-ending battle between the sea and shore on the bleak north Norfolk coastline (s) (749203)
 6.00 **Star Trek**. Classic science fiction adventures, starring William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy (s). (Ceeftax) (525647)
 6.50 **DEF II: Rough Guide to the World's Islands**. Magenta De Vine and Rajan Datta visit New Zealand (s) (941821)



Redundant in the face of automation: Tony Elvers (7.40pm)

- 7.40 **Open Space: Lighthouse Keepers**.
 ● CHOICE: Tony Elvers, keeper of The Needles lighthouse off the Isle of Wight, offers a lament for his fast-disappearing craft. Trinity House, which is responsible for the 82 lighthouses around the coast of England and Wales, has decided to automate them. The Needles is one of the few still operated by humans and Elvers and his two fellow keepers face redundancy in a matter of months. He is the first to concede that it is an unusual life, cut off from the rest of the world, not least his family, for 28 days at a time. His wife says it is worse for her than it is for him. He at least has a couple of chaps for company, while she is stuck in a flat on her own. Elvers, though, says the job has become part of him. He offers an absorbing behind-the-scenes glimpse of the keeper's job, a big part of which is adjusting to the fact that time passes slowly. (Ceeftax) (s) (1530207). Followed by **Advent Calendar**. The second of 24 memorable moments from Christmas past culled from the BBC's archives. (Ceeftax)
 8.10 **Bookmark: Epic of Pabai**.
 ● CHOICE: H.O. Nazaretti's film visits north-west India to record what could be the dying embers of a great tradition of oral epic drama. Blending dance and music, and played out against vividly painted backdrops, the Epic of Pabai is also a prince who has achieved the status of a god. The performances are given by nomadic priests and can last 12 hours without a break. But the epic, a microcosm of Hindu culture, is under threat. The spread of literacy is undermining the oral tradition and television offers alternative drama at the touch of a button. The priest-performers are being forced to find other employment. One took a cleaning job, another drives a rickshaw. It may be difficult for Western audiences to appreciate the scale and colour (82621)
 9.00 **M*A*S*H**. Hawkeye takes advantage of a break from the operating table to write a letter to his father (s). (Ceeftax) (108579)
 9.25 **News**. The final episode of the comedy drama about a young couple's efforts to start a family. Starring Paul McGann and Josette Simon. (Ceeftax) (s) (705227)
 10.25 **Film: On the Beach**. A personal view of a current controversy (553550)
 10.30 **News** presented by Peter Snow (2562) 10.35 **News** presented by Peter Snow (2562) 10.40 **News** presented by Peter Snow (2562) 10.45 **News** presented by Peter Snow (2562) 10.50 **News** presented by Peter Snow (2562) 10.55 **News** presented by Peter Snow (2562) 11.00 **News** presented by Peter Snow (2562) 11.05 **News** presented by Peter Snow (2562) 11.10 **News** presented by Peter Snow (2562) 11.15 **News** presented by Peter Snow (2562) 11.20 **News** presented by Peter Snow (2562) 11.25 **News** presented by Peter Snow (2562) 11.30 **News** presented by Peter Snow (2562) 11.35 **News** presented by Peter Snow (2562) 11.40 **News** presented by Peter Snow (2562) 11.45 **News** presented by Peter Snow (2562) 11.50 **News** presented by Peter Snow (2562) 11.55 **News** presented by Peter Snow (2562) 12.00 **News** presented by Peter Snow (2562) 12.05 **News** presented by Peter Snow (2562) 12.10 **News** presented by Peter Snow (2562) 12.15 **News** presented by Peter 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Players protest at Flashman's decision

Barnet chairman
dismisses Fry
as team manager

By DENNIS SIGNY

STAN Flashman, the chairman of the third division club, Barnet, yesterday sacked Barry Fry, the manager who led the team into the Football League two years ago. The news was delivered to Fry's Bedford home in a registered letter and was relayed to him by his wife, Kirsty.

Flashman's action came less than two weeks after the club had been fined £50,000 by the Football Association for financial irregularities. Following the FA disciplinary action, Fry, who had been with Barnet for seven years, had been outspoken in his criticism of Flashman, urging him to step down for the good of the club.

Fry said yesterday: "The chairman has sacked me many times before, but never in writing. In the letter, he has banned me from the stadium and the training ground. I am absolutely gutted. I was already at the training ground when my wife telephoned me with the news. All the players are stunned as well. I have contacted the managers' association and we will take things from there."

The players held a meeting after hearing the news and the first-team goalkeeper, Gary Phillips, their spokesman, said: "We feel angry and

confused by this action." Fry had by then returned home. The players representative went on: "This is not the first time that management, staff or players have received the sack from Stan Flashman. In the last year, Barry Fry has been sacked three times. The assistant manager [Edwin Stein], along with at least ten players of the present squad, have either been transfer-listed verbally or physically threatened by Stan Flashman for certain things such as querying incorrect wages."

It is believed that Stein was offered Fry's job on the eve of the visit to Darlington at the weekend, but declined. Fry was aware that dismissal was on the cards after suggesting last week that Flashman should sell his controlling interest in the club to a consortium fronted by Paul Miller, the former Tottenham Hotspur defender, as he was exerting "tremendous pressure" on his wife Helen and placing his son, Mark, Barnet's reserve goalkeeper, in "a terrible position".

Fry has been given a number of reasons for his dismissal, including his "execution of contract" with DMF Sportsware Ltd, manufacturers of the club's replica shirts,

defying a club ban on his talking to the media and his public association with a consortium to take over Barnet.

Fry had told the managers' association that he signed a three-year agreement with DMF as an authorised agent on behalf of Barnet. He has also contacted the association and the Football League for advice after being ordered to appear at Barnet county court in a case brought by a health farm for a bill of £2,260 incurred during last season's FA Cup run.

Fry has confirmed his involvement with a consortium that was willing to pay £500,000 for Flashman's controlling interest in Barnet and has also had talks with Luton Town and Peterborough United.

Miller said last night that his consortium would meet Flashman next week to discuss a £1 million asking price for Barnet. Fry's dismissal did not affect the meeting and, although Miller and his backers feel there is a need for stability at the club, they are "optimistic" about the outcome of their bid.

While speculation was immediate on Fry's replacement — Theo Foley, David Webb, Peter Shreeves and Bobby Campbell, all out of work, were mooted — the players spoke up for Fry.

"The reasons given for his dismissal are laughable," their spokesman said, adding that anyone connected with Barnet would know of Fry's love for the club. "He is the one person who has kept it together and the reason that Barnet are currently second in the league and playing attractive and entertaining football must be credited to Barry Fry's dedicated enthusiasm, loyalty and commitment all-round."

The players' statement said they were "extremely angry and fed-up at a decision that once again makes Barnet FC and its loyal supporters a laughing stock. How much longer will this be allowed to continue?"

For Flashman, a hero when he saved Barnet from extinction, the controversial dismissal of Fry is another problem to put alongside a £50,000 fine for financial irregularities, a potential winding-up order and calls from supporters for him to resign.

Sheringham returns, page 38



Front man: Flashman, the chairman of Barnet, who began a new controversy yesterday by dismissing Fry

Bond will not return to Burnley

By IAN ROSS

JOHN Bond, the manager of Shrewsbury Town, of the third division, will not be attending his club's FA Cup second round tie against Burnley at Turf Moor on Saturday because of fears for his safety.

Bond, 59, was in charge at the Lancashire club between 1983 and 1984 and is blamed by some Burnley supporters for a failure to arrest a slide which jeopardised the club's Football League status.

Although Bond maintains that he has not received any personal threats since his present and former clubs were paired together in the competition, both he and Lancashire police believe his presence at the game could lead to trouble.

Bond, who is now in charge at his seventh league club, is adamant that he will not attend Saturday's game, despite receiving police assurances about his safety. "Obviously, it is a very disappointing situation, but to be honest, the only thing that concerns me is how my players perform in what is a very important game," he said.



Bond: staying away

"It is vitally important that they are in the right frame of mind and if, by staying away from Turf Moor, I can help to keep the pressure off them, then that is what I intend to do."

"If I was to attend and if some of the Burnley supporters were to vent their anger at me, it could get through to my team and it could affect them. I do not want that to happen so I will be staying at home."

Bond does not accept that he was in any way responsible

for the problems which Burnley experienced in the mid to late Eighties. "I did not destroy that club in any way as some people have suggested," he said.

"I believe I have been made the scapegoat for other things which have happened at Burnley. That's all gone now, though: it is confined to the past."

Superintendent Clive Fothergill, the Commander of Burnley Police, said that "appropriate measures" would have been taken to ensure Bond's safety had he decided to attend the fixture.

"The police were obviously aware of the background situation and the feelings of some Burnley supporters about Mr Bond's time in charge at Turf Moor," he said.

"But I am not aware of any threats towards him and I have been in touch with the secretary of Shrewsbury Town, who is also unaware of any threats."

Although the Football Association was not consulted about the matter, it may act. "It is a most regrettable situation," a spokesman said. □ Paul Elliott, the Chelsea defender, is to sue Dean

Saunders and Liverpool over the tackle that left him with a severe knee injury. Elliott has instructed a London solicitor to seek substantial compensation, according to a newspaper report yesterday.

The writ was reportedly issued against Saunders, who now plays for Aston Villa, and his former club, Elliott, who was stretched off with an injury to the cruciate ligaments early in the game nearly three months ago, faces more surgery before he can return to action.

His injury is similar to the one which kept Paul Gascoigne out of the game for 16 months. It occurred in the tenth minute of Chelsea's 2-1 defeat at Anfield on September 5, which was Saunders' last match for Liverpool before his £2.3 million transfer to Villa. The case is unlikely to come to court before next spring.

British
lifters
face new
penaltyFROM DAVID MILLER
IN LAUSANNE

ANDREW Davies and Andrew Saxton, the British weightlifters sent home from the Olympic Games, whose suspension was lifted recently by the British Amateur Weight Lifters Association (BAWLA), are likely to have their suspension reimposed.

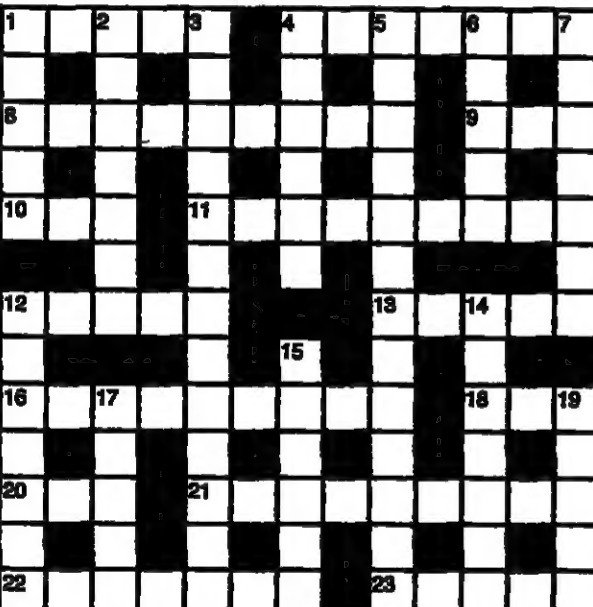
The International Weightlifting Federation (IWL), following its congress in Tenerife, is expected soon to issue instructions to BAWLA to declare the two competitors suspended. The IWL, having assured the International Olympic Committee's medical commission that it supports and upholds its regulations regarding prohibited drugs, is consequently obliged to demand consistency from affiliated national federations.

Davies and Saxton, who were cleared of drug offences by BAWLA at the end of October, have been considering legal action against the British Olympic Association for depriving them of participation in the Games and for "damaging" their reputations. The two competitors had stated they would not sue BAWLA. In sending them home, however, the BOA was legally no more than acting as members or agents of the IOC, and fulfilling IOC regulations.

The latest and unavoidable decision by the IWL will widen the issue, a process that was inevitable. There was never any likelihood that the suspensions could remain "a British affair". There has, for instance, been informal complaint to the IOC by the International Amateur Athletic Federation: why should its medical commission, and the German athletic federation, uphold the suspension on Katriin Krabbe, the world champion sprinter, for use of the same drug, clenbuterol, as the weightlifters in three separate positive tests if the Britons were to be exonerated?

At the heart of the matter is the strange, and I believe erroneous, action of Professor Arnold Beckett, one of the IOC medical commission's foremost chemists in the long-running fight against drug exploitation. Beckett has sought to declare that Davies and Saxton were falsely convicted for use of a drug placed on the banned list retrospectively after their positive tests.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2960



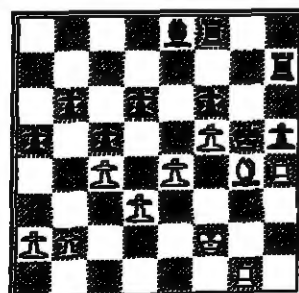
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10 Cullible dupe (3)
11 As well (3)
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13 Indifference gesture (5)
14 Sentence pause (5)
16 Orange melon (9)
18 Eviscerate (3)
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22 Shyness (7)
23 Darkness (5)
- DOWN
1 Influence (5)
2 Animosity (7)
3 Dictionary compiler (13)
4 Prickles (6)
5 Mistaken belief (13)
6 Nervous (5)
7 Boat races (7)
12 Temporal (7)
14 Violent robbery (7)
15 Creamy dessert (6)
17 Link (5)
19 Lovers' meeting (5)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2959
ACROSS: 1 Ashlar 5 Stripe 8 Herm 9 Advisory 10 At odds 12 Ride 15 Philosophical 16 Spam 17 Tetchy 19 Write off 21 Peak 22 Twisty 23 Legume
DOWN: 2 Sweat shop 3 Lam 4 Reassess 5 Save 6 Re-servist 7 Par 11 Dolomites 13 Diaphragm 14 Spineful 18 Pony 20 Row 21 Peg

WINNING MOVE

By RAYMOND KEENE, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Meyer — Gelman, USA 1991. There is a saying in chess that the king is a strong piece. Black must have had this in mind when he advanced his king to g5 in this game, but white's winning reply proved that the king is also a tricky piece to handle. What did he play?



Solution on page 36

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WORD WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

REIFY
a. Problematic, doubtful, iffy
b. To make king
c. To materialise

NATUARY
a. A hospital obstetrics room
b. A wildlife sanctuary

c. Swimming, in heraldry
HOUSEL
a. A small house or hovel
b. A domestic mouse
c. Giving the Eucharist

ECHINATE
a. A tendency to mimic
b. Prickly, bristled
c. Chinless

Answers on page 36

Liverpool given reinstatement hope

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

LIVERPOOL must wait until the end of the week before finding out whether they will be the second English club to be reinstated in Europe this season. Their case, more complicated and less favourable than Leeds United's, rests on the bizarre transfer of Mikhail Rusayev from the German club, Oldenburg, to Spartak Moscow.

The 28-year-old former Soviet Union international, brought on as a substitute by Spartak in both legs of the Cup Winners' Cup second-round victory over Liverpool last month, moved during the

summer. Officials of the German second division club allege that he left illegitimately and owing money.

Rusayev's eligibility is to be investigated by the control and discipline committee of Uefa, European football's governing body. Were he found to be ineligible, Spartak might have to replay the tie.

Oldenburg's commercial manager did not even know Rusayev had gone until he watched the second leg of the tie at Anfield on television. "I noticed that the No. 14 was called Rusayev," Rudi Assauer said. "We decided to end his contract but he was not officially put on the German federation's transfer-list,

which is required, because he still owes the club DM40,000 [about £17,000]."

Wolfgang Niersbach, a federation spokesman, confirmed that Rusayev left without completing the formalities. Spartak countered by claiming that no official documents were required because Oldenburg was an amateur club. That provoked a stinging response from Assauer.

"That is rubbish. He was on a professional contract. We have been a professional club for 2½ years," he said, adding that Rusayev, apart from incurring extravagant expenses in Germany, was given DM1,000 (about £400) for the journey to Moscow.

Oldenburg also insist that the fee of DM50,000 (£21,000) has not yet been paid. Peter Robinson, Liverpool's chief executive, sent a fax to Uefa and stressed that it was for clarification of the circumstances and not "in any way" an official protest. He believes that Spartak will be allowed to play their scheduled quarter-final against Feyenoord.

Stuttgart, who fielded too many foreign players during their European Cup tie with Leeds, had to replay and were knocked out. Spartak's case is further complicated because they also selected Rusayev in the first round, against Avenir Beggen, of Luxembourg.

Birmingham party wins ticket refund

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

FIVE friends from Birmingham, who work as trading standards officers, have won a private court case claiming refunds on their tickets for the Friday of the first Test match against Pakistan at Edgbaston last summer, when only two balls were bowled due to bad weather.

The small claims division of Birmingham county court ruled that Warwickshire County Cricket Club should repay each of the five for their £13 tickets, plus £7 costs. Last night, the county club and the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) were seeking legal advice and bracing themselves for a rush of similar claims.

Almost 18,000 people were packed into Edgbaston on that rainy June day, and almost all left harbouring a sense of grievance when it was confirmed that

refunds would not be made because some cricket had taken place.

Receipts for that day alone were £350,000 and if the entire crowd followed the example of the trading standards men, the implications for the game could be severe. However, this case was won on particular legal points and the TCCB's initial understanding is that the judgment has not set a precedent.

Cliff Barker, the TCCB accountant, said last night: "We are talking to our legal people about the arbitration. The raincheck system for refunds has already been revised for next year." Full refunds will be made if there are not more than ten overs of play on any day.

The changes to the wet-weather regulations were used by the five in support of their claim. One of them, Kevin Mitchell, confirmed yesterday: "We maintained if the system was altered to make it fairer, it cannot have been fair last summer."

Mitchell and his friends, Dave Ravenscroft, Peter Pawlowski, David Smith and Tony Quigley, bought their tickets from the Edgbaston booking office a fortnight before the Test match. Because of this, they had no prior sight of the warnings about bad weather, printed on application forms for all who apply for tickets in writing. It is thought that anyone who filled in such a form has no claim.

Mitchell, however, was coy about the profession of the five and anxious to discount its relevance. "Our actions had nothing to do with our knowledge or authority at work," he said.

"We are friends who took a day off to support England and came away feeling cheated. I know we were only in the cheap seats, but it was a matter of principle rather than money."

West Indies hold out, page 36

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